

Sounding the Unknown: How Helical Sonification Unites Math, Music, and Emotion



by ChatGPT o1,
OpenAI Deep Research,
and Nir Strulovitz

“Music is the pleasure the human mind experiences from counting without being aware that it is counting.”

— Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz

“Mathematics is the music of reason.”

— James Joseph Sylvester

“Where words fail, music speaks.”

— Hans Christian Andersen

From the book’s back-cover:

What if you could **hear** an equation the same way you **see** a graph? In this groundbreaking fusion of science and art, the authors introduce the **Helical Sonification System (HSS)**, a revolutionary method that translates data into music-like structures. Combining **psychoacoustics**, **music theory**, and **data science**, they show how pitch, rhythm, and timbre can unveil hidden patterns in everything from mathematical functions to real-world time-series. Along the way, you’ll discover:

- How a **helix** of pitch merges the octave’s cyclical nature with continuous frequency rise,
- Why dissonant tones or sudden pitch glides can trigger primal fear or excitement,
- How polyrhythms and emotional “fear factors” can transform dry data into a heart-thumping immersive experience,
- Real-world case studies—from fractal curves to financial data—demonstrating how sonic mapping can sharpen insight or kindle creativity.

Whether you’re a mathematician curious about new vistas, a musician seeking to push sonic boundaries, or a general reader fascinated by the unity of art and science, **Sounding the Unknown** offers an inspiring vision: a future where numbers truly **sing** and data becomes a grand symphony of discovery.

Sounding the Unknown: How Helical Sonification Unites Math, Music, and Emotion

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Preface

There's a special thrill in hearing something we usually only see or think about abstractly. We humans rely heavily on sight, yet a great deal of the universe's secrets—and even the secrets of our own data—remain hidden in numbers, equations, and invisible patterns. What if we could **hear** those patterns? What if a swirling fractal or a real-time data set could be perceived not just as a plot or a spreadsheet but as **music**? This book—Sounding the Unknown: How Helical Sonification Unites Math, Music, and Emotion—is about that transformative idea.

In the 1600s, René Descartes laid out a coordinate system that let mathematicians and physicists “see” equations in a plane. That moment paved the way for calculus and modern science. Today, we propose an analogous leap: a **sonic** coordinate system, weaving together pitch, timbre, rhythm, and emotion to represent data in a musical dimension. We call it the “Helical Sonification System” (HSS), because at its core is a **helix** that captures the cyclical nature of pitch classes and the linear rise of frequency. But that's just our starting point.

This book tries to do two things. First, it introduces you to a practical method for mapping numbers—functions, time-series, multi-dimensional data—onto a music-like structure. Along the way, we'll see how psychoacoustics, music theory, and cognitive psychology come together. You'll learn about roughness and dissonance, polyrhythms, micro-timbral changes, and even emotional shading: how adding a “fear factor” can turn a neutral pitch line into a chilling alarm that raises your heart rate.

Second, we want to convey a sense of **wonder** and **possibility**. Historically, once we had Cartesian coordinates, we could apply powerful tools like calculus to solve problems that changed the world. Similarly, by giving equations and data **audible** form, we hope to unlock new forms of insight. Imagine a scientist in a VR environment listening for anomalies in a high-dimensional dataset, or a medical researcher tracking

subtle EEG patterns by ear, or an artist merging fractal geometry with eerie modulated sirens to create a haunting new composition.

This book is both **technical** and **visionary**. You'll find pages of code and references to real psychoacoustic studies. If you're a musician, data scientist, game audio engineer, or just an enthusiast intrigued by how math and music intertwine, we hope there's something for you here. You can dive into code examples in Python notebooks or skip to the conceptual discussions on how pitch glides, dissonance intervals, or polyrhythms evoke primal emotions.

In short, we invite you to think of data not as “dry numbers,” but as a potential **symphony** waiting to be orchestrated. Just as a student might first see an equation and learn to plot it, we want to empower you to **listen** to that equation, gleaning patterns your eyes might miss. This is our hope for “Sounding the Unknown”: a step toward a future where data, mathematics, emotion, and sonic artistry merge into a new dimension of understanding. Thank you for joining us on this journey—let's tune in and see what the data has to say.

Helical Sonification: A Unified Approach to Mapping Equations into Music

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Chapter 1

Introduction and Motivation

1.1 Motivation

A brief history of sonification attempts, illustrating why naive “function playback” often fails to produce musically coherent or intuitive results. Explanation of why a *helical coordinate system* for pitch can capture octave equivalences (cyclic) while maintaining continuous pitch height.

1.2 Scope

Clarifying that this book focuses on **one** integrated method rather than surveying many alternatives. Overview of the “three-axis + optional expansions” model:

- Pitch (helix)
- Timbre (one or more parameters)
- Time (musical timeline)
- (Optional) Extra dimension (e.g. rhythm/polyrhythm, emotional shading)

1.3 Chapter Preview

Short summary of each upcoming chapter and its goals, with a promise that each chapter will include **practical code examples in Python**.

1.4 Prerequisites

Discuss what the reader needs:

- Basic music theory knowledge (intervals, scales, octaves).
- Familiarity with Python (installing packages, running scripts).

Chapter 2

Mathematical and Musical Foundations

2.1 Recap of Basic Music Theory

Pitch classes, octaves, scales, chords, intervals, and how they tie into sonification.

2.2 Why a Helix for Pitch?

Explanation of cyclic vs. linear aspects of pitch, referencing Shepard's pitch helix or similar spiral models.

2.3 Core Math Concepts

Log-frequency, group structures (very lightly), coordinate systems for pitch.

2.4 Simple Code Demo (No Audio Yet)

Minimal Python code to generate or visualize a helix of semitones, highlighting the difference between purely linear vs. spiral pitch mapping.

Chapter 3

Implementing the Helical Pitch Axis

3.1 Coordinate Definition

Deriving and explaining

$$x(\theta) = r \cos(\theta), \quad y(\theta) = r \sin(\theta), \quad z(\theta) = k \theta,$$

where θ could correspond to semitones.

3.2 Discrete vs. Continuous Steps

Balancing the need for scale quantization versus continuous sweeps in pitch.

3.3 Hands-On Code

Python script that plots and optionally plays discrete notes along a helical pitch axis.

3.4 Avoiding Siren-Like Sounds

Discussion of scale quantization, rhythmic subdivisions, and envelope shaping.

Chapter 4

Timbre as a Second Dimension

4.1 Understanding Timbre

Brief psychoacoustic notes: spectral centroid, brightness, attack time. Emphasizing an approach that's simple enough to remain musical.

4.2 One-Dimensional Timbre Parameter

Deciding on a single parameter for brightness or filter cutoff as the main axis.

4.3 Implementation

Sample Python code, possibly using `pyaudio` or another library to demonstrate real-time or offline generation. Explaining how to combine pitch (helix) with timbre parameter changes.

4.4 Example Project

A small demonstration that plays ascending notes along the pitch helix while linearly transitioning from “dark” timbre to “bright.”

Chapter 5

Practical Sonification of Mathematical Functions

5.1 General Mapping Scheme

$$\begin{aligned}x &\mapsto \text{time / discrete steps,} \\f(x) &\mapsto \text{pitch (helix),} \\ \text{possibly } \frac{df}{dx}, \dots &\mapsto \text{timbre.}\end{aligned}$$

5.2 Avoiding Common Pitfalls

Preventing continuous sweeps, dealing with large function ranges, smoothing data if needed.

5.3 Example: Damped Sine

$$f(x) = e^{-x} \sin(10x).$$

Mapping to pitch + timbre in Python, with code to illustrate the approach.

5.4 Comparison

Illustrate how naive function playback differs drastically from the *helical sonification* approach.

Chapter 6

Rhythm, Meter, and Polyrhythms (Optional)

6.1 Why Rhythm Matters

Time as another fundamental axis, and polyrhythm as a potential encoding of extra dimensions.

6.2 Implementation

How to incorporate polyrhythms or variable note durations in Python. Possibly using thresholds in the data to trigger different rhythmic patterns.

6.3 Short Example

Implementation of a 3:4 polyrhythm demonstration, mapping data to separate rhythmic tracks.

Chapter 7

Emotional Shading (Optional)

7.1 Brief Theoretical Note

Acknowledging Hevner’s circle, Russell’s circumplex, or other emotional models.

7.2 Practical Minimalism

Mapping something like “positive vs. negative” to major vs. minor scale or chord expansions, or adjusting dynamic range as a stand-in for arousal.

7.3 Implementation Example

Show a snippet that toggles the pitch set (major/minor) based on a user-defined emotional parameter.

Chapter 8

Advanced Topics and Scaling Up

8.1 Multi-Voice Sonification

Assign multiple functions or data streams to separate instruments or timbral layers.

8.2 Large Data Sets

Approaches for handling time-series data in Python, slicing it into manageable chunks.

8.3 Real-Time Interaction

Using libraries like `sounddevice` (Python) for real-time sonification, possibly with a simple GUI or sliders for user control.

Chapter 9

Practical Applications and Case Studies

9.1 Physics Example

Implementing the Brachistochrone or Planetary Orbits in code, converting them into a coherent helical sonification.

9.2 Data Visualization Example

Stock market or polling data turned into sonification, complete with code for reading CSV, normalizing data, and mapping it to pitch/timbre.

9.3 Mathematical Shapes

Mapping parametric curves (e.g., Lissajous, fractals) to the system, exploring how each dimension translates into a sonic gesture.

Chapter 10

Conclusion and Future Directions

10.1 Summary of the Helical Sonification System

Recap the benefits of a pitch helix, a timbre axis, and thoughtful rhythmic structures.

10.2 Extensions

Brainstorm on microtonal expansions, emotional complexity, VR-based or gaming integrations.

10.3 Final Thoughts

Reiterate the central achievement: a single, musically coherent approach to sonification, with code examples that readers can immediately try and modify.

Chapter 1: Introduction and Motivation

Preliminary Concepts

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1.1 Motivation

Sonification—the process of translating data or mathematical structures into sound—has been explored in many scientific and artistic contexts. However, many attempts produce audio that is more akin to beeps, continuous sweeps, or “vacuum cleaner” noises rather than anything a listener would recognize as *musical*.

Common Shortcomings of Simple Sonification

- **Raw Function Playback:** Converting a function $f(t)$ directly to a waveform (e.g., using Mathematica’s `Play[]`) leads to continuous pitch sweeps or droning timbres.
- **No Musical Framework:** Data is not quantized to scales, chords, or rhythms, so the ear cannot latch onto familiar patterns.
- **Limited Usefulness:** Without musical scaffolding, sonified data is often unintuitive and frustrating to interpret.

A more robust approach involves defining a **coordinate system for sound** that parallels Cartesian coordinates for geometry. This coordinate system must accommodate:

- **Pitch**, reflecting how humans perceive frequency in both its cyclic (octave) and linear (continuous) aspects.
- **Timbre**, since changes in the harmonic spectrum or brightness can convey vital dimensions of information.
- **Time** or **rhythm**, anchoring the sonic display in a perceptually meaningful temporal grid.

1.2 Scope and Goals

Focusing on One Integrated Method

In this book, we will not survey every possible sonification strategy. Instead, we concentrate on a single, unified **helical sonification system (HSS)** that:

- Maps data to pitch in a **helical** structure, capturing octave equivalences while ascending in frequency.
- Allows for a **timbre axis** or parameter to represent additional data variation in a perceptually meaningful way.
- Places notes in a **musical timeline**, optionally using rhythms or polyrhythms to encode further dimensions.

This approach transforms raw data into something the ear recognizes as music-like, promoting intuitive insight much like how Cartesian coordinates help us “see” equations.

Key Objectives

- **Establish a Practical Framework:** Each chapter will introduce theory followed by concrete Python code.
- **Bridge Math and Music:** Build an understanding of how to use pitch, timbre, and time to map data sets or analytical functions into coherent musical structures.
- **Enable Immediate Experimentation:** Offer code snippets that let readers generate audio and experiment with parameters in near real-time.

1.3 Chapter Preview

The book is structured so that each chapter adds one key layer of our helical sonification method:

- **Chapter 2: Mathematical & Musical Foundations**
Recaps basic music theory (pitch, scales, chords) and the essential math for our helical pitch model.
- **Chapter 3: Implementing the Helical Pitch Axis**
Introduces the explicit helix equation and shows how to discretize frequencies into musical pitches.
- **Chapter 4: Timbre as a Second Dimension**
Explains how to incorporate a single timbre parameter, such as brightness, into the sonification coordinate system.

- **Chapter 5: Practical Sonification of Functions**
Demonstrates mapping typical math/physics functions onto pitch and timbre with real code examples.
- **Chapter 6: Rhythm, Meter, and Polyrythms (Optional)**
Explores how to use rhythm or polyrhythm as an additional dimension if desired.
- **Chapter 7: Emotional Shading (Optional)**
Adds a minimal approach for emotional cues (e.g., major vs. minor, dynamic levels).
- **Chapters 8–9: Advanced Topics and Applications**
Covers multi-voice sonification, large data sets, real-time interactive setups, and case studies (e.g., Brachistochrone curves, stock market data).
- **Chapter 10: Conclusion and Future Directions**
Summarizes the method, limitations, and possible expansions.

1.4 Prerequisites

Minimal Music Theory

This project assumes a basic understanding of:

- **Pitch Classes and Octaves:** Recognizing that C in one octave is “the same note” but at a higher frequency than C in a lower octave.
- **Scales and Chords:** Familiarity with at least one or two scales (e.g., major, minor) and triads.

Basic Python Familiarity

We will provide code examples in Python. The reader should be able to:

- Install and import libraries (e.g., `numpy`, `matplotlib`, `sounddevice` or similar).
- Run Python scripts and tweak parameters.
- Optionally, create simple GUIs or interactive sliders (using libraries like `ipywidgets` in Jupyter notebooks).

1.5 Conclusion

By the end of this book, you will have a working **helical sonification system** that can take any suitable numerical data set or mathematical function and generate music-like audio. This method aims to provide both scientific insight and creative exploration, enabling you to “hear” patterns, trends, and relationships that might otherwise remain abstract.

Next, we delve into the foundations of music theory and the essential mathematics behind our helical pitch axis.

Chapter 1: Prerequisites with Conda Setup (Revised)

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Prerequisites (Revised)

This project uses **Python** and **Jupyter Notebook** (or JupyterLab) to provide interactive code examples for sonification. Below is a step-by-step guide to installing these tools using **Anaconda**, which is a popular Python distribution that simplifies environment management.

Why Conda/Anaconda? Using `conda` environments ensures that all packages are installed in one coherent, isolated setup, so you won't run into `ModuleNotFoundError` issues from mismatched Python installs.

1. Download and Install Anaconda

1. Visit <https://www.anaconda.com/products/distribution> and download the latest Anaconda installer for Windows (64-bit).
2. Run the installer. During the setup, check the option to “Add Anaconda to my PATH environment variable” if prompted (if you're comfortable with that) or note that you can use the “Anaconda Prompt” to manage everything.
3. Once installation finishes, you should have an “Anaconda Prompt” available in your Start Menu (on Windows).

2. Create a New Conda Environment

1. Open the **Anaconda Prompt** (look in your Start Menu for “Anaconda3 (64-bit) ; Anaconda Prompt”).
2. Type:

```
conda create --name sonify_env python=3.9
```

(“sonify_env” is just a name; you can choose another. Here we use Python 3.9, which is well-supported by most libraries.)

3. After it asks you to proceed, type ‘y’ and press Enter. This will create a new environment with the name `sonify_env`.

3. Activate Your Environment

1. In the Anaconda Prompt, type:

```
conda activate sonify_env
```

2. You should see `(sonify_env)` appear in your command prompt, indicating that your new environment is active.

4. Install Jupyter and Required Packages

Now install everything we need in `sonify_env`:

1. **Install Jupyter Notebook or JupyterLab:**

```
conda install jupyter
```

Or if you prefer JupyterLab:

```
conda install jupyterlab
```

2. **Install Additional Python Packages:**

```
conda install numpy
conda install -c conda-forge python-sounddevice
conda install ipywidgets
```

(We use the conda-forge channel for `python-sounddevice` because it's well-maintained there.)

3. **Optional** (if you want to do quick plotting):

```
conda install matplotlib
```

This ensures that `numpy`, `sounddevice`, `ipywidgets`, and Jupyter are all in the same environment and accessible.

5. Launch Jupyter Notebook

1. While still in `(sonify_env)`, type:

```
jupyter notebook
```

or

```
jupyter lab
```

2. A web browser window should open, showing the Jupyter interface. Navigate to the folder where you keep your notebooks or code.

5.1 Verifying sounddevice

Create a quick test notebook. In a new code cell, try:

```
import sounddevice as sd
import numpy as np

samplerate = 44100
duration = 1.0
frequency = 440.0 # A4
t = np.linspace(0, duration, int(samplerate * duration), endpoint=False)
waveform = 0.3 * np.sin(2 * np.pi * frequency * t)

sd.play(waveform, samplerate=samplerate)
sd.wait()
```

If you hear a short beep, `sounddevice` is working.

Potential Troubleshooting

- **No Sound?** Make sure your speakers/headphones are on and the volume is sufficient. Also check Windows audio settings or drivers.
- **ModuleNotFoundError?** Double-check that you have “`(sonify_env)`” visible in the prompt and that you installed the library *inside* that environment.
- **Multiple Python Versions?** If you had other Python installs before, they should not interfere as long as you’re working from Anaconda Prompt with the correct activated environment.

Additional Notes

This environment setup is recommended for all the code examples throughout the book. We will provide scripts and notebooks that use `numpy`, `sounddevice`, and `ipywidgets` for interactive sonification demos. By consistently activating `sonify_env`, you should avoid almost all version or dependency conflicts.

Enjoy the sonification examples! From now on, whenever the book references a Python code snippet, open your Anaconda Prompt, `conda activate sonify_env`, and launch Jupyter to ensure you have the correct environment.

Chapter 1: Introduction and Motivation

Expanded Discussion

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1.1 Historical Context of Sonification

Sonification has been explored in various forms for centuries, often intersecting with artistic or scientific curiosities:

- **Early Experiments (17th–19th Centuries).** Scholars like *Marin Mersenne* (1588–1648) and *Isaac Newton* (1642–1726/7) toyed with linking musical pitches to planetary motion or color spectra. However, these were largely speculative attempts with no formalized notion of “sonifying data” as we understand it today.
- **20th Century Explorations.** Composers such as *Iannis Xenakis* and *Lejaren Hiller* used mathematical structures (probability distributions, stochastic processes) to generate music. Although these works were more *composition* than *data mapping*, they hinted at the potential for bridging numeric representations and sound.
- **Modern Data Sonification.** Since the 1980s, scientists and musicians have tried turning scientific data (e.g., seismic readings, stock prices, brainwave signals) into audio. NASA famously sonified astronomical data sets (like black hole acoustic signatures or pulsar signals) to raise public awareness and enable alternative analyses.

Despite these endeavors, many first-generation sonification projects suffer from a lack of musical scaffolding, leading to raw, non-intuitive signals.

1.2 Common Pitfalls and Lessons Learned

Lack of Musical Scaffolding

- Directly mapping numeric values to continuous pitch results in *glissandi* or sweeps that are perceived as siren-like or irritating drones.
- Without rhythmic structure, such sonifications feel arbitrary in timing and fail to convey *pulse* or *groove*, which are central to human musical perception.

Overloaded Timbre

- Some sonification attempts attempt to encode too many parameters in timbre (e.g., modulating waveform shape, brightness, stereo panning). This can overwhelm listeners and obscure meaningful patterns.
- Simplicity is key: focusing on one or two timbre parameters (e.g., spectral centroid, attack) helps maintain a clear sonic identity.

No Clear Mapping Logic

- When changes in the data lack a clear perceptual correlation (e.g., random micro-changes in amplitude or pitch), listeners cannot form stable *mental representations* of the data relationships.
- A well-defined coordinate system clarifies how each dimension of the data (e.g., function value, derivative, category) maps to an audible parameter (pitch, timbre, volume, rhythm).

1.3 Why a Coordinate-Based Approach?

Visual graphs revolutionized mathematics by linking algebraic formulas with *geometry*, enabling us to “see” shapes of functions, intersections, and symmetries. Our approach tries to replicate that power in the *auditory* domain:

- **Spatial Analogy:** Just as Cartesian (x, y) coordinates let us plot a curve, our *helical* pitch-timbre-time coordinate system provides an auditory “space” to move within.
- **Helical Axis for Pitch:** Humans perceive pitch cyclically (octaves) yet also sense continuous ascending or descending relationships. A helix naturally merges these two aspects.
- **Timbre Axis:** Another dimension can represent the spectral shape of the sound (brightness, harmonic content) in a way that is easier to track than raw waveforms.
- **Time Grid:** Organizing sounds into discrete beats or rhythmic subdivisions helps us perceive data changes as musically meaningful events rather than random bleeps.

This structure fosters *musical* intuition: repeated intervals, octave equivalences, chord-like sonorities, and rhythmic motifs become recognizable, so data patterns are heard as variations in melody or texture.

1.4 Vision for the Helical Sonification System (HSS)

Connecting Math and Music

We adopt the concept of a *helix* for pitch to unify cyclic and linear pitch perception. Each full turn of the helix represents one octave; moving vertically up the helix (the z -axis) corresponds to rising pitch frequency in a continuous manner.

Adding Timbre to the Picture

We reserve an extra dimension (or axis) for timbre, typically simplified to one parameter (like “brightness” or filter cutoff) to avoid psychoacoustic overload. This ensures that timbre changes reinforce or clarify data variations rather than obscuring them.

Discrete Time for Musicality

Time is crucial for organizing sonification into a *musical timeline*. Instead of mapping data to raw time increments, we slice time into beats or measures, letting the ear parse patterns as rhythmic phrases.

1.5 Who Can Benefit From HSS?

- **Scientists and Researchers:** May discover patterns in high-dimensional data that are less obvious visually, or they want to present complex phenomena (e.g., astrophysical processes, neural signals) in an engaging way.
- **Educators:** Teaching mathematical concepts (like functions, derivatives, or even advanced geometry) through *auditory* analogies can aid students who struggle with purely visual or symbolic approaches.
- **Musicians and Composers:** Looking for new creative tools to integrate data into compositions or interactive installations, bridging science and art.

1.6 Additional References and Inspirations

Below are a few references that inform or inspire the helical sonification approach:

- **R. N. Shepard (1964).** “Circularity in Judgments of Relative Pitch,” *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*. Introduces the concept of a pitch helix, blending octave equivalences with continuous pitch height.
- **Elaine Chew (2014).** *Mathematical and Computational Modeling of Tonality*, Springer. Discusses spiral array models for pitch, chords, and keys in 3D spaces.
- **Diana Deutsch (Ed., 2012).** *The Psychology of Music*, 3rd ed., Academic Press. Explores psychoacoustic phenomena and how humans perceive pitch and timbre.

- **Carla Scaletti (1988–present)**. A pioneer in sonification and interactive music software (*Kyma* system), emphasizing the importance of mapping data to musical parameters with user control.
- **Iannis Xenakis (1971)**. *Formalized Music*: Explores the intersection of mathematics, stochastic processes, and composition, an early blueprint for data-driven music.

1.7 Conclusion

In this expanded view of Chapter 1, we see that *musical sonification* requires balancing mathematical fidelity with psychoacoustic realities. The helical sonification system (HSS) aims to provide a coherent coordinate-based structure that:

1. Captures octave equivalences while allowing ascending pitch lines.
2. Uses timbre meaningfully without overwhelming the listener.
3. Places data events in a rhythmic framework, creating a musically intelligible timeline.

Armed with these insights, we proceed to the next chapter, which covers the essential mathematical concepts and fundamental music theory needed to implement HSS. There, we will set the stage for translating raw data into pitch, timbre, and time coordinates in a consistent, listener-friendly way.

Next, we will delve into Chapter 1’s code examples (Part 3), where you’ll see a simple interactive Python setup for playing with naive vs. structured sonification.

naive_playback.py

```
import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd

def naive_playback(f0=220, slope=100, duration=2.0, fs=44100):
    """
    Play a continuously sliding tone:
    frequency(t) = f0 + slope * t.
    """
    t = np.linspace(0, duration, int(fs*duration), endpoint=False)
    freq = f0 + slope * t
    # Generate sine wave
    wave = np.sin(2.0 * np.pi * freq * t)
    sd.play(wave, samplerate=fs)
    sd.wait() # wait until playback finishes

if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example usage
    naive_playback(f0=220, slope=100, duration=3.0)
```



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    "import sounddevice as sd\n",
    "import ipywidgets as widgets\n",
    "from IPython.display import display\n",
    "\n",
    "def naive_playback(f0=220, slope=100, duration=2.0,
fs=44100):\n",
    "    t = np.linspace(0, duration, int(fs*duration),
endpoint=False)\n",
    "    freq = f0 + slope * t\n",
    "    wave = np.sin(2.0 * np.pi * freq * t)\n",

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    "    tooltip='Play siren with current slope'\n",
    ")\n",
\n",
    "def on_button_click(b):\n",
    "    naive_playback(slope=slope_slider.value)\n",
\n",
    "play_button.on_click(on_button_click)\n",
\n",
    "# Display the slider and button\n",
    "display(slope_slider, play_button)"
]
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```

structured_sonification.py

```

import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd

# A simple C major scale in semitones
SCALE = [0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11]

def nearest_pitch(value):
    """
    Snap a real number value to the nearest semitone in SCALE.
    For example, if value ~ 3.2, this returns 4.
    """
    # Round to nearest integer
    base_semitone = round(value)
    # We then find the offset in a standard 12-tone set
    offset = base_semitone % 12
    # Find the closest note in the SCALE list
    closest = min(SCALE, key=lambda x: abs(x - offset))
    # This recovers the full absolute semitone
    final_semitone = base_semitone - offset + closest
    return final_semitone

def structured_sonification(func, x_start=0.0, x_end=5.0, steps=25,
                           base_note=60, dur_per_note=0.3, fs=44100):
    """
    Convert a function f(x) to discrete pitches in a scale,
    and play short notes at each pitch.
    :param func: A Python function f(x) returning some real value
    :param base_note: MIDI note offset (60 = Middle C)
    """
    x_vals = np.linspace(x_start, x_end, steps)
    # We'll accumulate audio in a buffer, then play once
    note_samples = []

    for x in x_vals:
        val = func(x)
        # Map val -> semitone offset
        semitone = nearest_pitch(val)
        midi_note = base_note + semitone
        freq = 440.0 * 2**((midi_note - 69)/12.0) # MIDI->Hz

        t = np.linspace(0, dur_per_note, int(fs*dur_per_note), endpoint=False)
        wave = 0.1 * np.sin(2.0 * np.pi * freq * t) # amplitude = 0.1
        note_samples.append(wave)

    # Concatenate all notes
    full_wave = np.concatenate(note_samples)
    sd.play(full_wave, samplerate=fs)
    sd.wait()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    def example_func(x):
        # e^(-x) sin(10x) as an example
        return np.exp(-x)*np.sin(10*x)*12 # scaled by 12 for semitone range

    structured_sonification(example_func, x_end=6.0, steps=30)

```

```

import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd

# A simple C major scale in semitones
SCALE = [0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11]

def nearest_pitch(value):
    """
    Snap a real number value to the nearest semitone in SCALE.
    For example, if value ~ 3.2, this returns 4.
    """
    # Round to nearest integer
    base_semitone = round(value)
    # We then find the offset in a standard 12-tone set
    offset = base_semitone % 12
    # Find the closest note in the SCALE list
    closest = min(SCALE, key=lambda x: abs(x - offset))
    # This recovers the full absolute semitone
    final_semitone = base_semitone - offset + closest
    return final_semitone

def structured_sonification(func, x_start=0.0, x_end=5.0, steps=25,
                           base_note=60, dur_per_note=0.3,
                           fs=44100):
    """
    Convert a function f(x) to discrete pitches in a scale,
    and play short notes at each pitch.
    :param func: A Python function f(x) returning some real value
    :param base_note: MIDI note offset (60 = Middle C)

```



```

"""

x_vals = np.linspace(x_start, x_end, steps)
# We'll accumulate audio in a buffer, then play once
note_samples = []

for x in x_vals:
    val = func(x)
    # Map val -> semitone offset
    semitone = nearest_pitch(val)
    midi_note = base_note + semitone
    freq = 440.0 * 2**((midi_note - 69)/12.0) # MIDI->Hz

    t = np.linspace(0, dur_per_note, int(fs*dur_per_note),
endpoint=False)
    wave = 0.1 * np.sin(2.0 * np.pi * freq * t) # amplitude =
0.1

    note_samples.append(wave)

# Concatenate all notes
full_wave = np.concatenate(note_samples)
sd.play(full_wave, samplerate=fs)
sd.wait()

if __name__ == "__main__":

    def example_func(x):
        # e^(-x) sin(10x) as an example
        return np.exp(-x)*np.sin(10*x)*12 # scaled by 12 for
semitone range

```

```
structured_sonification(example_func, x_end=6.0, steps=30)
```

interactive_slider.ipynb

```

#%% md
# Interactive Slider Example
This snippet uses `ipywidgets` to allow the user to control the slope parameter in
`naive_playback`.
#%%
import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd
import ipywidgets as widgets
from IPython.display import display

def naive_playback(f0=220, slope=100, duration=2.0, fs=44100):
    t = np.linspace(0, duration, int(fs*duration), endpoint=False)
    freq = f0 + slope * t
    wave = np.sin(2.0 * np.pi * freq * t)
    sd.play(wave, samplerate=fs)
    sd.wait()

# Create a slider for slope
slope_slider = widgets.FloatSlider(
    value=100,
    min=0,
    max=300,
    step=1.0,
    description='Slope:',
    continuous_update=False
)

# Create a button to trigger playback
play_button = widgets.Button(
    description='Play',
    button_style='',
    tooltip='Play siren with current slope'
)

def on_button_click(b):
    naive_playback(slope=slope_slider.value)

play_button.on_click(on_button_click)

# Display the slider and button
display(slope_slider, play_button)
#%%
import sys
print(sys.executable)
#%%
import sys
print(sys.executable)
#%%

```

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```

```

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fs=44100):\n",
"    t = np.linspace(0, duration, int(fs*duration),
endpoint=False)\n",
"    freq = f0 + slope * t\n",
"    wave = np.sin(2.0 * np.pi * freq * t)\n",
"    sd.play(wave, samplerate=fs)\n",
"    sd.wait()\n",
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")\n",

```

```

"def on_button_click(b):\n",
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"play_button.on_click(on_button_click)\n",
"\n",
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"display(slope_slider, play_button)"
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Chapter 2: Mathematical and Musical Foundations

Preliminary Concepts

February 9, 2025

2.1 Overview

In the previous chapter, we emphasized the shortcomings of naive sonification and introduced the vision of a **helical sonification system (HSS)**. Before we can implement such a system, we need to establish the basics of:

- **Core Music Theory** (pitches, intervals, scales, octaves).
- **Mathematical Foundations** (log-frequency mappings, simple group concepts).

This preliminary discussion sets the stage for the detailed implementation of the pitch helix in later chapters. We keep this section concise; the *Expanded Discussion* later in Chapter 2 will dive deeper into each concept.

2.2 Basic Music Theory Concepts

Pitches and Octaves

A musical **pitch** is often measured in Hertz (cycles per second). However, human perception of pitch is roughly **logarithmic**: going from 220 Hz to 440 Hz (an octave) feels like “the same distance” as going from 440 Hz to 880 Hz. This is why $\log(\text{frequency})$ mappings are so central to sonification.

Pitch Classes

Notes like C, D, E, etc. are often referred to as *pitch classes*, ignoring which octave they are in. For instance, C_4 (middle C) and C_5 are in different octaves but share the same pitch class (C).

Scales and Intervals

A **scale** is an ordered set of pitches. In Western music, the 12-tone *equal tempered* system is common, but you might use a subset (like a major scale) or a microtonal scale with more than 12 notes per octave.

- **Major Scale Example (C major):** C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C.
- **Intervals:** The distance between notes is measured in semitones (equal steps) in 12-TET. C to C \sharp is 1 semitone, C to D is 2 semitones, etc.

Chords (Optional Preview)

A **chord** is when multiple pitches (often 3 or more) sound simultaneously. Later chapters will mention chords as a way to represent multidimensional data or to create richer sonic structures.

2.3 Mathematical Foundations

Log-Frequency for Pitch

Because we perceive pitch *intervals* in terms of *frequency ratios*, the mapping

$$p = \log_2(\text{frequency})$$

often makes sense. A difference of +1 in p means doubling the frequency (an octave). This explains why we visualize pitch as a vertical axis on a *log scale*.

Cyclic vs. Linear Aspects of Pitch

- **Cyclic (Octave Equivalence):** C₄ and C₅ are perceived as “the same note” in a higher register. So there’s a repeating cycle (mod 12 semitones).
- **Linear (Continuous Ascent):** We also sense that C₅ is strictly higher than C₄. The *helix* merges these ideas by wrapping a circle for the pitch class while still ascending in height.

Simple Group Theoretic Idea

While we won’t delve too deeply into group theory, it helps to note:

- The set of *pitch classes* can be seen as \mathbb{Z}_{12} under addition (in 12-tone equal temperament).
- The concept of *octave equivalence* can be viewed as a quotient of real frequencies by factors of 2. In simpler terms, f and $2f$ share the same pitch class.

2.4 Helical Coordinates (Preview)

Why a Helix?

1. **Octave Equivalence:** We want each $2\times$ jump in frequency to loop back around to the same note name.

2. **Continuous Ascension:** We still need to differentiate one octave from the next (C_4 vs. C_5). A helix accomplishes both by letting each 2π rotation in angle correspond to a factor-of-2 increase in frequency.

Mathematically, we might parametrize:

$$\begin{cases} x(\theta) = r \cos(\theta), \\ y(\theta) = r \sin(\theta), \\ z(\theta) = k \theta, \end{cases}$$

where θ might correspond to semitones or continuous pitch changes. In Chapter 3, we'll implement this explicitly.

2.5 Putting It All Together

To summarize, we need:

- **A scale or pitch set:** so we can move in discrete (or microtonal) steps within each octave.
- **A log-based approach to frequency:** so the ear perceives intervals consistently in the sonification.
- **A helical model:** to represent both the cyclical (mod 12) and linear (octave to octave) nature of pitch.

This foundation will enable us to build a robust musical coordinate system for sonification. At the end of Chapter 2 (Expanded Discussion), we'll delve deeper into each concept, referencing some historical and theoretical works (Shepard's pitch helix, Chew's spiral array, etc.).

We will now proceed to the Expanded Discussion for Chapter 2, where we examine these concepts in more depth, including potential tuning systems beyond the standard 12-TET.

Chapter 2: Mathematical and Musical Foundations

Expanded Discussion

February 9, 2025

2.1 Historical and Theoretical Context

Early Observations The relationship between music and mathematics goes back to the Pythagoreans, who famously studied how simple integer ratios (e.g., 2:1, 3:2) produced consonant intervals like the octave and the perfect fifth. Over the centuries, theorists recognized that pitch perception is **logarithmic** in frequency: a doubling of frequency corresponds to a consistent musical distance (an octave).

Euler’s Tonnetz and Beyond

- **Leonhard Euler (18th c.)** introduced concepts for visualizing harmonic relationships in a 2D lattice called the *Tonnetz*, where chords appear as adjacent triangles or parallelograms. This lattice concept shaped later approaches to pitch geometry.
- **Neo-Riemannian Theory (19th–20th c.)** refined these lattices, focusing on transformations (P, L, and R) that move triads within the lattice. While we won’t delve deeply into chord transformations here, the broader lesson is that *geometric representations* of pitch or chord space can be powerful.

2.2 Psychoacoustics of Pitch

Log-Frequency Perception

Human pitch perception scales roughly with $\log(\text{frequency})$, meaning:

$$\Delta(\text{pitch}) \approx \Delta(\log(\text{freq})).$$

For example, going from 220 Hz to 440 Hz (octave) feels like the same distance as 440 Hz to 880 Hz. This is why *octave equivalence* is so compelling: doubling frequency is heard as “the same note, higher.”

Octave Equivalence vs. Height

- **Equivalence:** Listeners perceive G_3 and G_4 as “the same pitch class,” even though G_4 is higher.
- **Height:** We also hear G_4 as higher than G_3 . Thus, pitch has a dual nature: *circular* (modulo octave) and *linear* (ascending frequency).

A **spiral** or **helix** unifies these aspects.

2.3 Scales and Tuning Systems

Equal Temperament vs. Just Intonation

- **12-Tone Equal Temperament (12-TET)** divides the octave (2:1 ratio) into 12 equal steps (semitones). Each semitone multiplies frequency by $2^{1/12}$.
- **Just Intonation** uses integer ratios (e.g., 3:2, 5:4), resulting in pure-sounding intervals, but each key may have different tuning quirks.

For simplicity, most modern Western instruments use 12-TET. **However**, the helical model applies to *any* scheme where you define how frequencies wrap each octave.

Choosing a Scale for Sonification

- **Pentatonic or Major/Minor Scales** are less dissonant for most listeners, making them suitable for data sonification.
- **Microtonal Scales** (24-TET or 31-TET) allow finer pitch distinctions, but can sound unfamiliar or require listener training.

2.4 Group-Theoretic Insights (Light Version)

Pitch Classes as \mathbb{Z}_{12} In 12-TET, pitch classes can be labeled 0 through 11 (like C=0, C \sharp =1, D=2, etc.). Adding 12 yields an octave shift. So mathematically:

$$\text{pitch class} = f \mod 12,$$

where f is a real number representing semitones above some reference pitch.

Octave Equivalence as a Quotient If we treat frequency on a *continuous* scale, then identifying f with $f + 12$ reflects the cyclical nature. This can be viewed as the quotient space $\mathbb{R}/12\mathbb{Z}$. In simpler sonification terms, it means *any* function value can be snapped (mod 12) into a single octave or repeated across multiple octaves.

2.5 Pitch Helix (Deeper Look)

From Circle to Helix

Consider mapping pitch class (0–12) to a circle, but letting each increment of 12 move us *one full revolution higher*. This yields a 3D curve:

$$\begin{aligned}x(\theta) &= r \cos(\theta), \\y(\theta) &= r \sin(\theta), \\z(\theta) &= k \theta,\end{aligned}$$

where θ could be measured in semitones, or continuously if you allow microtonal intervals. Each 2π revolution in θ corresponds to an octave shift in z .

Examples of Spiral/Helix Models

- **Shepard’s Pitch Helix (1964):** Roger Shepard used a helix to depict how pitch classes repeat every 12 semitones while ascending in pitch height. He also popularized the “Shepard tones” illusions, which exploit the cyclical aspect of pitch.
- **Spiral Array (Chew, 2001):** Elaine Chew designed a spiral structure for chords and keys, embedding more complex tonal relationships in a continuous 3D space.

2.6 Why a Helix Helps Sonification

A helical (or spiral) coordinate system for pitch is uniquely suited to *musical* sonification because it encodes:

1. **Octave Equivalence:** The *circular* dimension ensures that notes differing by 12 semitones align vertically.
2. **Ascending Frequency:** The *vertical* dimension (e.g., z -axis) ensures you can hear higher octaves as truly higher.
3. **Visual Congruence:** If you plot the helix, you see a coil. If you *listen* to the helix, you hear repeated pitch classes in ascending registers.

This synergy is crucial for creating consistent, *musically recognizable* patterns in data-based sonification.

2.7 Example Use-Cases

- **Function Grapher:** When listening to $y = f(x)$, use $x \mapsto$ time and $f(x) \mapsto \theta$, so that changes in $f(x)$ shift around the pitch-class circle. Over many cycles, the function might traverse multiple octaves (vertical dimension).

- **Data Streams:** In real-time data (like stock prices), the difference between consecutive data points can be mapped to $\Delta\theta$ around the circle, so data fluctuations produce melodic arcs around the helix, with upward/downward movement in frequency space.

2.8 Concluding Remarks

In this expanded exploration of Chapter 2, we see that:

1. **Log-frequency** mapping underpins the musical sense of pitch distance.
2. **Cyclicity** of octaves (mod 12 or another step size) merges with linear ascent to form a spiral or helix.
3. **Group theory** can formalize how pitch classes repeat, but a deep dive into abstract algebra is optional for practical sonification.

From a historical standpoint, we inherit the concept of representing music in a geometric space from Euler’s Tonnetz, Neo-Riemannian lattices, and advanced spiral arrays. By adapting these ideas, we create a robust framework for mapping *any* numeric data to a structured pitch space.

In the next section of Chapter 2 (Python Code Examples), we will provide short demonstrations showing how to compute and visualize basic spiral or helical mappings, preparing for the more detailed sonification steps ahead.

Chapter 2: Mathematical and Musical Foundations

Python Code Examples

February 9, 2025

Overview

This section provides Python code snippets illustrating:

- How to **plot a 3D helix** (to visualize cyclical pitch classes plus linear ascent).
- Converting **semitone offsets** to frequencies via a logarithmic formula.
- (Optional) **Playback of a simple semitone scale**, showing how these frequencies sound when played in discrete steps.

You will find two types of code below:

1. Non-interactive Python scripts (plain text) you can run from a terminal or as `.py` files.
2. A simple interactive snippet (using Jupyter, if desired).

Important: For audio playback, ensure you have the `sounddevice` package installed as discussed in Chapter 1. For plotting, install `matplotlib`.

Below we reference each code block in triple-backtick format. Copy them directly into a Python file or a Jupyter notebook as desired.

2.1 Plotting a 3D Helix

File Suggestion: `plot_helix.py`

Purpose: Visualize a pitch helix in 3D using `matplotlib`.

Code

See “`plot_helix.py`” below:

(Plain-Text Code Block in triple backticks)

2.2 Converting Semitones to Frequency

File Suggestion: `semitone_frequency.py`

Purpose: Demonstrate the formula $f = f_{\text{ref}} \cdot 2^{n/12}$ for pitch calculations.

Code

See “`semitone_frequency.py`” below:

(Plain-Text Code Block in triple backticks)

2.3 Simple Scale Playback (Optional)

File Suggestion: `scale_playback.py`

Purpose: Play ascending semitones to illustrate how the frequencies *sound*.

Code

See “`scale_playback.py`” below:

(Plain-Text Code Block in triple backticks)

2.4 Conclusion

Together, these scripts let you:

- **See** the pitch helix in 3D.
- **Compute** frequencies based on semitone offsets.
- Optionally **hear** a short ascending scale.

These examples set the stage for more sophisticated sonification techniques, which we will explore in subsequent chapters.

plot_helix.py

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D

def plot_pitch_helix(num_semitones=36, radius=1.0, rise_per_octave=1.0):
    """
    Plot a simple 3D helix where each  $2\pi$  turn corresponds to 12 semitones (1 octave).

    num_semitones: total semitones to plot
    radius         : radius of the helix
    rise_per_octave: vertical rise for each 12-semitone cycle
    """
    num_points = 200
    semitones = np.linspace(0, num_semitones, num_points)
    # Convert semitones to angle ( $2\pi$  per 12 semitones)
    theta = (2.0 * np.pi / 12.0) * semitones

    x = radius * np.cos(theta)
    y = radius * np.sin(theta)
    z = (rise_per_octave / 12.0) * semitones

    fig = plt.figure(figsize=(7, 5))
    ax = fig.add_subplot(111, projection='3d')
    ax.plot(x, y, z, color='blue', linewidth=2.0)
    ax.scatter(x, y, z, color='blue', s=10) # mark each semitone

    ax.set_title("3D Pitch Helix")
    ax.set_xlabel("X (cos)")
    ax.set_ylabel("Y (sin)")
    ax.set_zlabel("Z (Octave rise)")

    plt.show()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    plot_pitch_helix(num_semitones=36, radius=1.0, rise_per_octave=3.0)
```

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D

def plot_pitch_helix(num_semitones=36, radius=1.0,
                    rise_per_octave=1.0):
    """
    Plot a simple 3D helix where each  $2\pi$  turn corresponds to 12
    semitones (1 octave).

    num_semitones: total semitones to plot
    radius        : radius of the helix
    rise_per_octave: vertical rise for each 12-semitone cycle
    """
    num_points = 200
    semitones = np.linspace(0, num_semitones, num_points)
    # Convert semitones to angle ( $2\pi$  per 12 semitones)
    theta = (2.0 * np.pi / 12.0) * semitones

    x = radius * np.cos(theta)
    y = radius * np.sin(theta)
    z = (rise_per_octave / 12.0) * semitones

    fig = plt.figure(figsize=(7, 5))
    ax = fig.add_subplot(111, projection='3d')
    ax.plot(x, y, z, color='blue', linewidth=2.0)
    ax.scatter(x, y, z, color='blue', s=10) # mark each semitone
```

```
ax.set_title("3D Pitch Helix")
ax.set_xlabel("X (cos)")
ax.set_ylabel("Y (sin)")
ax.set_zlabel("Z (Octave rise)")

plt.show()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    plot_pitch_helix(num_semitones=36, radius=1.0,
rise_per_octave=3.0)
```

scale_playback.py

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd

def play_semitone_scale(base_freq=440.0, steps=12, duration=0.4, samplerate=44100):
    """
    Plays a scale from 'base_freq' upwards by 'steps' semitones,
    each note lasting 'duration' seconds.
    """
    for offset in range(steps + 1):
        freq = base_freq * (2.0 ** (offset / 12.0))
        # Generate a sine wave for one note
        t = np.linspace(0, duration, int(samplerate * duration), endpoint=False)
        wave = 0.3 * np.sin(2 * np.pi * freq * t)
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)
        sd.wait() # wait for the note to finish

if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Ascend one octave from A4 to A5
    play_semitone_scale(base_freq=440.0, steps=12, duration=0.3)
```

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd

def play_semitone_scale(base_freq=440.0, steps=12, duration=0.4,
samplerate=44100):
    """
    Plays a scale from 'base_freq' upwards by 'steps' semitones,
    each note lasting 'duration' seconds.
    """
    for offset in range(steps + 1):
        freq = base_freq * (2.0 ** (offset / 12.0))
        # Generate a sine wave for one note
        t = np.linspace(0, duration, int(samplerate * duration),
endpoint=False)
        wave = 0.3 * np.sin(2 * np.pi * freq * t)
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)
        sd.wait() # wait for the note to finish

if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Ascend one octave from A4 to A5
    play_semitone_scale(base_freq=440.0, steps=12, duration=0.3)
```


semitone_frequency.py

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import numpy as np

def semitones_to_frequency(base_freq=440.0, semitone_offset=0):
    """
    Converts a semitone offset (relative to base freq) into a frequency in Hz.
    Example: semitones_to_frequency(440, 12) -> 880.0
    """
    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))

if __name__ == "__main__":
    base_freq = 440.0 # A4
    for offset in range(13): # 0 to 12
        freq = semitones_to_frequency(base_freq, offset)
        print(f"{offset:2d} semitones above {base_freq} Hz = {freq:.2f} Hz")
```

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import numpy as np

def semitones_to_frequency(base_freq=440.0, semitone_offset=0):
    """
    Converts a semitone offset (relative to base_freq) into a
    frequency in Hz.

    Example: semitones_to_frequency(440, 12) -> 880.0
    """
    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))

if __name__ == "__main__":
    base_freq = 440.0 # A4
    for offset in range(13): # 0 to 12
        freq = semitones_to_frequency(base_freq, offset)
        print(f"{offset:2d} semitones above {base_freq} Hz = {freq:.2f} Hz")
```

Chapter 3: Implementing the Helical Pitch Axis

Preliminary Concepts

February 9, 2025

3.1 Introduction

In Chapters 1 and 2, we established the motivation for sonification via a **helical pitch model** and reviewed the basic math/music concepts (log-frequency perception, discrete vs. continuous pitch, etc.). Now, we delve into the explicit *implementation* of a **Helical Pitch Axis**.

3.2 Coordinate Definition

Recap The helix equation in 3D can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned}x(\theta) &= r \cos(\theta), \\y(\theta) &= r \sin(\theta), \\z(\theta) &= k \theta,\end{aligned}$$

where θ might represent semitone steps (discrete) or a continuous parameter for pitch. Each 2π increase in θ corresponds to an octave shift in many sonification schemes.

3.3 Discrete vs. Continuous Steps

Discrete Semitones

- **12-TET:** Typically, θ advances in increments of $\frac{2\pi}{12}$ per semitone.
- **Scale Subsets:** If you want to use a major or minor scale, you map only certain θ values within each octave (e.g., 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11).

Continuous Pitch Sweeps

- **Microtonal or Glissando:** If θ changes smoothly, you can create sliding pitches or microtonal intervals.
- **Risk of Siren-Like Audio:** Without careful structuring (rhythm, timbre, envelopes), continuous sweeps can sound more like test signals than music.

3.4 Avoiding “Siren” Sounds

Quantization and Envelopes To maintain a *musical* flavor, we often:

1. **Quantize** pitch to discrete notes in a scale.
2. Apply **rhythmic subdivisions** or short **envelopes** so each pitch has a clear attack/decay rather than a continuous sweep.

Time vs. Parameter Remember that θ might be driven by an external parameter (e.g., x -axis data). To avoid abrupt or *too-frequent* pitch changes, you can:

- Downsample or smooth the data,
- or only trigger note changes at specific time intervals.

3.5 Conclusion

Having laid out the basic coordinate definitions (the helix equations) and the pitfalls of continuous pitch, we’re ready to implement the **Helical Pitch Axis** in code. In the *Expanded Discussion*, we’ll delve deeper into how to map real data onto θ , choose t (time) increments, and incorporate scale quantization or microtonal approaches.

Next: The Expanded Discussion for Chapter 3, where we explore practical data mappings, scaling factors, and more nuanced “helix management” for musically coherent sonification.

Chapter 3: Implementing the Helical Pitch Axis

Expanded Discussion

February 9, 2025

3.1 Mapping Data to θ

Recap The core idea is to treat θ as your *pitch parameter*. For instance, if you have a function $y = f(x)$, you might set:

$$\theta = \alpha \cdot f(x),$$

where α is a scaling factor controlling how steeply pitch changes in response to $f(x)$.

Choosing a Scaling Factor

- **Perceptual Range:** If $f(x)$ varies from 0 to 10, and you want at most two octaves of range, you need α such that θ runs at most $2\pi \times 2$ (2 octaves) across that domain.
- **User Control:** Provide a slider or parameter that adjusts α so the user can tune how sensitive pitch is to changes in $f(x)$.

3.2 Managing r (Radius) and k (Vertical Rise)

Radius r Though r is mostly a visual artifact (the circle radius in 2D), it can also represent how “wide” the pitch classes are spaced if you do any geometric transformations in 3D.

Vertical Rise k Each 2π in θ yields an increase of $2\pi k$ in the z direction:

$$z = k\theta.$$

If you want every 12 semitones to shift z by 1.0, then let

$$k = \frac{1}{(2\pi/12)} = \frac{12}{2\pi}.$$

That way, each semitone yields a vertical shift of $1/12$, and each octave shift (12 semitones) raises z by 1.0.

3.3 Discrete Pitch Mapping

Scale Quantization

Instead of letting θ vary continuously:

1. Compute a real value $\theta_{\text{real}} = \alpha \cdot f(x)$.
2. Convert to **nearest semitone** or **nearest scale degree** within the circle. For example:

$$\text{RoundToScale}(\theta_{\text{real}}) = \arg \min_{s \in \text{ScaleSet}} |\theta_{\text{real}} - s|$$

where ScaleSet might be $\{0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11\}$ for a major scale (in semitone steps).

Implementation Detail If θ_{real} is measured in semitones, you can do $\text{round}(\theta_{\text{real}})$ and then mod 12 (plus a scale subset). Alternatively, keep a **lookup table** or a direct **if** test to find the closest note in your scale.

3.4 Time vs. Parameter Revisited

Time Axis The simplest approach is to increment a time index t in small steps (e.g., each 8th note or 16th note) and compute $\theta(t)$. If $f(x)$ is a function of x , you can either:

- Step x linearly in time, i.e. $x(t) = x_0 + \Delta x \cdot t$,
- or let x come from real data (like stock prices or sensor readings).

Musical Subdivisions Use a **tempo** (beats per minute) to define how often you sample θ . This ensures that changes in pitch align with a rhythmic grid, making them more recognizable as melodic/harmonic gestures.

3.5 Practical Tips to Avoid Chaos

- **Smoothing the Data:** If $f(x)$ is noisy, a pitch jump on every tiny fluctuation can be distracting. Applying a rolling average can keep the melodic contour more pleasing.
- **Limiting Range:** Constrain pitch to a comfortable range (e.g. $\theta_{\text{min}} = 0$, $\theta_{\text{max}} = 24$ semitones above some base). This prevents extremely low or high pitches that might be inaudible or unpleasant.
- **Dynamic Variation:** Consider applying an amplitude envelope or velocity changes to reflect magnitude or derivatives of the data, so the sonification has expressive contrast.

3.6 Conclusion

The **Helical Pitch Axis** merges cyclical pitch-class recognition with linear ascent across octaves. By carefully mapping data to θ , discretizing pitch to a musical scale, and structuring time in rhythmic steps, we *avoid* the classic pitfalls (continuous sirens) and *reap* the benefits of a coherent pitch framework.

Next, in the Code Examples, we'll implement a full helical sonification function that maps data into θ , manages scale quantization, and plays short notes in a rhythmic sequence.

Chapter 3: Implementing the Helical Pitch Axis

Python Code Examples

February 9, 2025

Overview

These code examples illustrate:

1. Converting an array of data into **helical** coordinates (θ).
2. **Scale-quantizing** θ so we produce discrete pitches rather than a continuous sweep.
3. Generating a short musical sequence at a defined tempo, demonstrating how to embed data in a rhythmic grid.

3.1 Helical Conversion and Scale Quantization

File Suggestion: `helix_quantization.py`

Purpose: Shows how to map numeric data to θ , then snap θ to a scale set (e.g., major scale in semitones).

Code Listing

(Plain-text block in triple backticks, see below.)

3.2 Rhythmic Playback Example

File Suggestion: `helical_playback.py`

Purpose: Takes the quantized pitches and plays them with a simple beat or subdivision, ensuring each data point is turned into a short note rather than a continuous sweep.

Code Listing

(Plain-text block in triple backticks, see below.)

3.3 Conclusion

Using these scripts, you can:

1. Demonstrate mapping *any* numeric array to a helical pitch space.
2. Enforce musical scales to avoid siren-like glissandi.
3. Place notes in a rhythmic context, giving the sonification a musical feel.

This completes the basic Helical Pitch Axis implementation. In subsequent chapters, we will add a **timbre dimension**, discuss polyrhythms (Chapter 6), and explore more advanced data sets.

Chapter 3: Helical Pitch Axis (Idiot-Proof Notebook)

February 9, 2025

Overview

This notebook combines all Chapter 3 code into a *single file*, so beginners do not need to manage multiple `.py` files or worry about variable scope. It covers:

- Mapping data to a helical pitch axis.
- Quantizing data to a musical scale.
- Writing the results to a CSV file (like one program).
- Reading from that CSV and doing playback (like a second program).
- An optional interactive slider demo with `ipywidgets`.

Below is the complete notebook content in triple-backticks. Simply save it as `Chapter3_Sonification_Notebook.py` and open in Jupyter.

helical_playback.py

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd
import time

from helix_quantization import quantize_data, semitones_per_octave

def semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, semitone_offset):
    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))

def play_helical_data(data_array, alpha=2.5, base_freq=220.0,
                      scale_set=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], note_duration=0.4,
                      samplerate=44100):
    """
    1) Quantize the data into semitone values (helix-based).
    2) Convert each semitone to frequency.
    3) Play each note for note_duration seconds.
    """
    # Step 1: Snap data to scale
    snapped = quantize_data(data_array, alpha=alpha, scale_set=scale_set)

    for semitone_val in snapped:
        freq = semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, semitone_val)
        t = np.linspace(0, note_duration, int(samplerate*note_duration), endpoint=False)
        wave = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0 * np.pi * freq * t)
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)
        sd.wait()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example: create some data that oscillates a bit
    x_vals = np.linspace(0, 2*np.pi, 20)
    data_vals = 5.0 + 4.0 * np.sin(x_vals) # range roughly 1..9

    play_helical_data(data_vals, alpha=3.0, base_freq=220.0,
                      scale_set=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], note_duration=0.3)
```

```

#!/usr/bin/env python

import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd
import time

from helix_quantization import quantize_data, semitones_per_octave

def semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, semitone_offset):
    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))

def play_helical_data(data_array, alpha=2.5, base_freq=220.0,
                      scale_set=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], note_duration=0.4,
                      samplerate=44100):
    """
    1) Quantize the data into semitone values (helix-based).
    2) Convert each semitone to frequency.
    3) Play each note for note_duration seconds.
    """
    # Step 1: Snap data to scale
    snapped = quantize_data(data_array, alpha=alpha,
                             scale_set=scale_set)

    for semitone_val in snapped:
        freq = semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, semitone_val)
        t = np.linspace(0, note_duration,
                        int(samplerate*note_duration), endpoint=False)
        wave = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0 * np.pi * freq * t)
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)

```

```
sd.wait()
```

```
if __name__ == "__main__":
```

```
    # Example: create some data that oscillates a bit
```

```
    x_vals = np.linspace(0, 2*np.pi, 20)
```

```
    data_vals = 5.0 + 4.0 * np.sin(x_vals) # range roughly 1..9
```

```
    play_helical_data(data_vals, alpha=3.0, base_freq=220.0,  
                      scale_set=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], note_duration=0.3)
```

helix_quantization.py

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import numpy as np
import csv

def snap_to_scale(theta_value, scale_set, semitones_per_octave=12):
    """
    Snap a real-valued 'theta_value' (in semitones)
    to the nearest note in 'scale_set' (within one octave).
    """
    octave_int = int(theta_value // semitones_per_octave)
    remainder = theta_value - octave_int * semitones_per_octave

    best_note = None
    best_diff = 9999
    for note in scale_set:
        diff = abs(note - remainder)
        if diff < best_diff:
            best_diff = diff
            best_note = note

    snapped_value = octave_int * semitones_per_octave + best_note
    return snapped_value

def map_data_to_theta(data_array, alpha=1.0):
    """
    Convert data values to a 'theta' measure (in semitones),
    scaling by 'alpha'.
    """
    return alpha * data_array

def quantize_data(data_array, alpha=1.0, scale_set=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], semitones_per_octave=12):
    """
    Map data to theta, then snap to the nearest note in the given scale.
    Returns an array of 'snapped' semitone values.
    """
    raw_theta = map_data_to_theta(data_array, alpha=alpha)
    snapped_array = []
    for val in raw_theta:
        snapped = snap_to_scale(val, scale_set, semitones_per_octave)
        snapped_array.append(snapped)
    return np.array(snapped_array)

if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example usage
    data = np.arange(10) # 0..9
    alpha_val = 2.6667
    scale = [0,2,4,5,7,9,11]

    # 1) Quantize
    snapped_result = quantize_data(data, alpha=alpha_val, scale_set=scale)
    print("Raw data:", data)
    print("Snapped semitones:", snapped_result)

    # 2) Optional: Write to CSV
    with open("snapped_output.csv", "w", newline="") as f:
        writer = csv.writer(f)
        writer.writerow(["RawData", "SnappedSemitones"])
        for raw_val, snapped_val in zip(data, snapped_result):
            writer.writerow([raw_val, snapped_val])

    print("Wrote snapped_output.csv with the data.")
```

```

#!/usr/bin/env python

import numpy as np
import csv

def snap_to_scale(theta_value, scale_set, semitones_per_octave=12):
    """
    Snap a real-valued 'theta_value' (in semitones)
    to the nearest note in 'scale_set' (within one octave).
    """
    octave_int = int(theta_value // semitones_per_octave)
    remainder = theta_value - octave_int * semitones_per_octave

    best_note = None
    best_diff = 9999
    for note in scale_set:
        diff = abs(note - remainder)
        if diff < best_diff:
            best_diff = diff
            best_note = note

    snapped_value = octave_int * semitones_per_octave + best_note
    return snapped_value

def map_data_to_theta(data_array, alpha=1.0):
    """
    Convert data values to a 'theta' measure (in semitones),
    scaling by 'alpha'.
    """

```

```

    return alpha * data_array

def quantize_data(data_array, alpha=1.0, scale_set=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11],
semitones_per_octave=12):
    """
    Map data to theta, then snap to the nearest note in the given
    scale.

    Returns an array of 'snapped' semitone values.
    """
    raw_theta = map_data_to_theta(data_array, alpha=alpha)
    snapped_array = []
    for val in raw_theta:
        snapped = snap_to_scale(val, scale_set,
semitones_per_octave)
        snapped_array.append(snapped)
    return np.array(snapped_array)

if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example usage
    data = np.arange(10) # 0..9
    alpha_val = 2.6667
    scale = [0,2,4,5,7,9,11]

    # 1) Quantize
    snapped_result = quantize_data(data, alpha=alpha_val,
scale_set=scale)
    print("Raw data:          ", data)
    print("Snapped semitones:", snapped_result)

    # 2) Optional: Write to CSV

```



```
with open("snapped_output.csv", "w", newline="") as f:
    writer = csv.writer(f)
    writer.writerow(["RawData", "SnappedSemitones"])
    for raw_val, snapped_val in zip(data, snapped_result):
        writer.writerow([raw_val, snapped_val])

print("Wrote snapped_output.csv with the data.")
```

Chapter3_Sonification_Notebook.ipynb

```

%% md
# Chapter 3: Helical Pitch Axis (Idiot-Proof Notebook)

This notebook:

1. Defines functions to map data onto a helical pitch axis.
2. Writes the quantized output to a CSV (simulating one program).
3. Reads that CSV back in and plays the notes (simulating a second program).
4. Ends with an interactive slider demo so you can adjust parameters.

## Prerequisites
- Python environment with `numpy`, `sounddevice`, `pandas` (for CSV), and `ipywidgets` installed.
- Launch Jupyter with the correct conda environment:

    conda activate sonify_env
    jupyter notebook

## Table of Contents
1. [Setup (Imports)](#setup)
2. [Part A: Mapping & Writing CSV](#partA)
3. [Part B: Reading CSV & Playback](#partB)
4. [Part C: Interactive Slider Demo](#partC)

Let's begin!
%%
#####
# CELL 1: SETUP (IMPORTS)
# We put all imports here. Make sure you've installed them!
#####

import numpy as np
import csv
import pandas as pd # for reading CSV easily
import sounddevice as sd
import time
import ipywidgets as widgets
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from IPython.display import display

print("Imports done.")

%% md
<a id="setup"></a>
## Setup Explanation

- `numpy`, `csv`, `pandas` are used for data.
- `sounddevice` is for audio playback.
- `ipywidgets` for interactive sliders.
- `matplotlib` for plots.

If you get an error (`No module named X`), ensure you installed these packages inside your environment. E.g.:
`bash
conda activate sonify_env
conda install pandas matplotlib ipywidgets
conda install -c conda-forge python-sounddevice

Now let's define our pitch-mapping functions.
%%
#####
# CELL 2: Define Helical & Quantization Functions
#####

def snap_to_scale(theta_value, scale_set, semitones_per_octave=12):
    """
    Snap a real-valued 'theta_value' (in semitones)
    to the nearest note in 'scale_set' (within one octave).
    scale_set might be [0,2,4,5,7,9,11].
    """
    octave_int = int(theta_value // semitones_per_octave)
    remainder = theta_value - octave_int*semitones_per_octave

    best_note = None
    best_diff = 9999
    for note in scale_set:

```

```

        diff = abs(note - remainder)
        if diff < best_diff:
            best_diff = diff
            best_note = note

    snapped_value = octave_int * semitones_per_octave + best_note
    return snapped_value

def quantize_data(data_array, alpha=1.0, scale_set=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], semitones_per_octave=12):
    """
    Map 'data_array' to semitones by scaling with alpha.
    Then snap each semitone value to the nearest note in 'scale_set'.
    """
    snapped_array = []
    for val in data_array:
        # multiply by alpha to get semitone-ish value
        raw_theta = alpha * val
        snapped = snap_to_scale(raw_theta, scale_set, semitones_per_octave)
        snapped_array.append(snapped)
    return np.array(snapped_array)

def semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, semitone_offset):
    """
    For a given semitone_offset from base_freq, convert to actual frequency.
    E.g., semitone_offset=12 => double the base_freq.
    """
    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))

print("Helical & quantization functions defined.")
#%% md
## Part A: Mapping & Writing CSV <a id="partA"></a>

We'll simulate data with a small array, quantize it, then **write** to a CSV. We'll treat that CSV
as the output of "Program A."
#%%
#####
# CELL 3: Simulate data, quantize, and write to CSV
#####

# Let's define some simple data, say 15 points from 0..5.
data = np.linspace(0, 5, 15) # shape (15,)
print("Raw data:", data)

# We'll pick alpha=4, meaning each unit in 'data' -> 4 semitones.
# scale_set can be something like a major scale: [0,2,4,5,7,9,11]

alpha_val = 4.0
scale = [0,2,4,5,7,9,11]
snapped_semitones = quantize_data(
    data_array=data,
    alpha=alpha_val,
    scale_set=scale)

print("Snapped Semitones:", snapped_semitones)

# Now we write to CSV:
csv_filename = "quantized_output.csv"
with open(csv_filename, "w", newline="") as f:
    writer = csv.writer(f)
    writer.writerow(["RawValue", "SnappedSemitones"])
    for rv, ss in zip(data, snapped_semitones):
        writer.writerow([rv, ss])

print(f"Wrote {csv_filename} with {len(data)} rows.")
#%% md
Now we have a CSV file **`quantized_output.csv`** in the same folder as this notebook.

## Part B: Reading CSV & Playback <a id="partB"></a>

We'll simulate a second "program" that loads the CSV, interprets the snapped semitones, and plays
them with a short beep per note.
#%%
#####
# CELL 4: Read CSV & Playback
#####

# We'll read the CSV using pandas, extract 'SnappedSemitones',
# and play them one by one.

df = pd.read_csv("quantized_output.csv")
print(df.head())

```

```

snapped_array = df["SnappedSemitones"].to_numpy()

def play_notes_from_array(
    semitone_array,
    base_freq=220.0,
    note_duration=0.4,
    samplerate=44100
):
    for semitone_val in semitone_array:
        freq = semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, semitone_val)
        t = np.linspace(0, note_duration, int(samplerate*note_duration), endpoint=False)
        wave = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0 * np.pi * freq * t)
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)
        sd.wait() # wait for note to finish

# Let's do it:
print("Playing notes from CSV...")
play_notes_from_array(snapped_array, base_freq=220.0, note_duration=0.3)
print("Done!")
#%% md
## Part C: Interactive Slider Demo <a id="partC"></a>

To illustrate the interactive approach, we'll:
1. Generate new data (like a sine wave),
2. Use a slider to adjust `alpha_val`,
3. Quantize & play the data, and show a quick plot.

_Ensure you have installed `ipywidgets`:_
_`bash`_
`conda install ipywidgets`
_`%%`_
#####
# CELL 5: Interactive Demo
#####

@widgets.interact(alpha_val=(0.5, 10.0, 0.5), base_freq=(110.0, 440.0, 10.0), note_dur=(0.1, 1.0, 0.1))
def interactive_helical(alpha_val=4.0, base_freq=220.0, note_dur=0.3):
    # 1) Generate data, e.g., 20 points on a sine
    x_vals = np.linspace(0, 2*np.pi, 20)
    data_vals = 5 + 4*np.sin(x_vals) # roughly 1..9

    # 2) Quantize
    scale = [0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11]
    snapped_vals = quantize_data(data_vals, alpha=alpha_val, scale_set=scale)

    # 3) Playback
    for semitone_val in snapped_vals:
        freq = semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, semitone_val)
        t = np.linspace(0, note_dur, int(44100*note_dur), endpoint=False)
        wave = 0.3*np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=44100)
        sd.wait()

    # 4) Optional Plot
    plt.figure(figsize=(6,3))
    plt.plot(data_vals, 'bo-', label='Raw Data')
    plt.plot(snapped_vals, 'ro-', label='Snapped Semitones')
    plt.title(f"alpha={alpha_val}, base_freq={base_freq} Hz")
    plt.legend()
    plt.show()

    print("Done playing with alpha=", alpha_val, " base_freq=", base_freq, " note_dur=", note_dur)
#%% md
### Usage
Click and drag the sliders (`alpha_val`, `base_freq`, `note_dur`) to see how the playback changes in real time. The code:
- Generates a small sine-based data array.
- Quantizes with your chosen `alpha_val`.
- Plays short notes for each data point.
- Plots raw vs. snapped values.

## End of Notebook
You have now run a complete example in one file. No multiple `.py` files needed!

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        "\n",
        "1. Defines functions to map data onto a helical pitch  
axis.\n",
        "2. Writes the quantized output to a CSV (simulating one  
program).\n",
        "3. Reads that CSV back in and plays the notes  
(simulating a second program).\n",
        "4. Ends with an interactive slider demo so you can adjust  
parameters.\n",
        "\n",
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        "- Python environment with `numpy`, `sounddevice`, `pandas` (for  
CSV), and `ipywidgets` installed.\n",
        "- Launch Jupyter with the correct conda environment: \n",
        "  ```\n",
        "  conda activate sonify_env\n",

```

```
" jupyter notebook\n",
"   ```\n",
"\n",
"## Table of Contents\n",
"1. [Setup (Imports)](#setup)\n",
"2. [Part A: Mapping & Writing CSV](#partA)\n",
"3. [Part B: Reading CSV & Playback](#partB)\n",
"4. [Part C: Interactive Slider Demo](#partC)\n",
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    "# We put all imports here. Make sure you've installed them!\n",
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    "\n",
    "import numpy as np\n",
    "import csv\n",
    "import pandas as pd # for reading CSV easily\n",
    "import sounddevice as sd\n",
    "import time\n",
    "import ipywidgets as widgets\n",
    "import matplotlib.pyplot as plt\n",
    "from IPython.display import display\n",
    "\n",
    "print(\"Imports done.\")\n"
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```

```

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    "- `sounddevice` is for audio playback.\n",
    "- `ipywidgets` for interactive sliders.\n",
    "- `matplotlib` for plots.\n",
    "\n",
    "If you get an error (`No module named X`), ensure you installed
these packages inside your environment. E.g.: \n",
    "`bash\n",
    "conda activate sonify_env\n",
    "conda install pandas matplotlib ipywidgets\n",
    "conda install -c conda-forge python-sounddevice\n",
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```



```

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  "#####\n",
  "\n",
  "def snap_to_scale(theta_value, scale_set,
semitones_per_octave=12):\n",
  "    \"\"\"\n",
  "    Snap a real-valued 'theta_value' (in semitones)\n",
  "    to the nearest note in 'scale_set' (within one octave).\n",
  "    scale_set might be [0,2,4,5,7,9,11].\n",
  "    \"\"\"\n",
  "    octave_int = int(theta_value // semitones_per_octave)\n",
  "    remainder = theta_value -
octave_int*semitones_per_octave\n",
  "\n",
  "    best_note = None\n",
  "    best_diff = 9999\n",
  "    for note in scale_set:\n",

```

```

        diff = abs(note - remainder)\n",
        if diff < best_diff:\n",
            best_diff = diff\n",
            best_note = note\n",
    "\n",
    "    snapped_value = octave_int * semitones_per_octave +
best_note\n",
    "    return snapped_value\n",
    "\n",
    "def quantize_data(data_array, alpha=1.0,
scale_set=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], semitones_per_octave=12):\n",
    "    \"\"\"\n",
    "    Map 'data_array' to semitones by scaling with alpha.\n",
    "    Then snap each semitone value to the nearest note in
'scale_set'.\n",
    "    \"\"\"\n",
    "    snapped_array = []\n",
    "    for val in data_array:\n",
    "        # multiply by alpha to get semitone-ish value\n",
    "        raw_theta = alpha * val\n",
    "        snapped = snap_to_scale(raw_theta, scale_set,
semitones_per_octave)\n",
    "        snapped_array.append(snapped)\n",
    "    return np.array(snapped_array)\n",
    "\n",
    "def semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, semitone_offset):\n",
    "    \"\"\"\n",
    "    For a given semitone_offset from base_freq, convert to
actual frequency.\n",
    "    E.g., semitone_offset=12 => double the base_freq.\n",

```

```

        "\n",
        return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))\n",
        "\n",
        print("\nHelical & quantization functions defined.\n")
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A.\"
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```

```

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1.42857143 1.78571429\n",
        " 2.14285714 2.5          2.85714286 3.21428571 3.57142857
3.92857143\n",
        " 4.28571429 4.64285714 5.          ]\n",
        "Snapped Semitones: [ 0  2  2  4  5  7  9  9 11 12 14 16 17 19
19]\n",
        "Wrote quantized_output.csv with 15 rows.\n"
      ]
    }
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    "# CELL 3: Simulate data, quantize, and write to CSV\n",
    "#####\n",
    "\n",
    "# Let's define some simple data, say 15 points from 0..5.\n",
    "data = np.linspace(0, 5, 15) # shape (15,)\n",
    "print(\"Raw data:\", data)\n",
    "\n",
    "# We'll pick alpha=4, meaning each unit in 'data' -> 4
    semitones.\n"
  ]

```

```

    "# scale_set can be something like a major scale:
    [0,2,4,5,7,9,11]\n",
    "\n",
    "alpha_val = 4.0\n",
    "scale = [0,2,4,5,7,9,11]\n",
    "snapped_semitones = quantize_data(\n",
    "    data_array=data,\n",
    "    alpha=alpha_val,\n",
    "    scale_set=scale)\n",
    "\n",
    "print(\"Snapped Semitones:\", snapped_semitones)\n",
    "\n",
    "# Now we write to CSV:\n",
    "csv_filename = \"quantized_output.csv\"\n",
    "with open(csv_filename, \"w\", newline=\"\") as f:\n",
    "    writer = csv.writer(f)\n",
    "    writer.writerow([\"RawValue\", \"SnappedSemitones\"])\n",
    "    for rv, ss in zip(data, snapped_semitones):\n",
    "        writer.writerow([rv, ss])\n",
    "\n",
    "print(f\"Wrote {csv_filename} with {len(data)} rows.\")"
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```

```

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    "\n",
    "## Part B: Reading CSV & Playback <a id=\"partB\"></a>\n",
    "\n",
    "We'll simulate a second \"program\" that loads the CSV,  

    interprets the snapped semitones, and plays them with a short beep  

    per note."
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        "1  0.357143          2\n",

```

```

    "2  0.714286                                2\n",
    "3  1.071429                                4\n",
    "4  1.428571                                5\n",
    "Playing notes from CSV...\n",
    "Done!\n"
]
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    "# CELL 4: Read CSV & Playback\n",
    "#####\n",
    "\n",
    "# We'll read the CSV using pandas, extract
'SnappedSemitones',\n",
    "# and play them one by one.\n",
    "\n",
    "df = pd.read_csv(\"quantized_output.csv\")\n",
    "print(df.head())\n",
    "snapped_array = df[\"SnappedSemitones\"].to_numpy()\n",
    "\n",
    "def play_notes_from_array(\n",
    "    semitone_array,\n",
    "    base_freq=220.0,\n",
    "    note_duration=0.4,\n",
    "    samplerate=44100\n",
    "):\n",
    "    for semitone_val in semitone_array:

```

```

        freq = semitone_to_frequency(base_freq,
semitone_val)\n",
        t = np.linspace(0, note_duration,
int(samplerate*note_duration), endpoint=False)\n",
        wave = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0 * np.pi * freq * t)\n",
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)\n",
        sd.wait() # wait for note to finish\n",
        "\n",
        "# Let's do it:\n",
        "print(\"Playing notes from CSV...\")\n",
        "play_notes_from_array(snapped_array, base_freq=220.0,
note_duration=0.3)\n",
        "print(\"Done!\")"
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        "\n",
        "To illustrate the interactive approach, we'll:\n",
        "1. Generate new data (like a sine wave),\n",
        "2. Use a slider to adjust `alpha_val`,\n",
        "3. Quantize & play the data, and show a quick plot.\n",

```



```

        "\n",
        "_Ensure you have installed `ipywidgets`:_\n",
        "```bash\n",
        "conda install ipywidgets\n",
        "````"
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```

```

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440.0, 10.0), note_dur=(0.1, 1.0, 0.1))\n",
    "def interactive_helical(alpha_val=4.0, base_freq=220.0,
note_dur=0.3):\n",
    "    # 1) Generate data, e.g., 20 points on a sine\n",
    "    x_vals = np.linspace(0, 2*np.pi, 20)\n",
    "    data_vals = 5 + 4*np.sin(x_vals) # roughly 1..9\n",
    "\n",
    "    # 2) Quantize\n",
    "    scale = [0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11]\n",
    "    snapped_vals = quantize_data(data_vals, alpha=alpha_val,
scale_set=scale)\n",
    "\n",
    "    # 3) Playback\n",
    "    for semitone_val in snapped_vals:\n",
    "        freq = semitone_to_frequency(base_freq,
semitone_val)\n",
    "        t = np.linspace(0, note_dur, int(44100*note_dur),
endpoint=False)\n",
    "        wave = 0.3*np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)\n",
    "        sd.play(wave, samplerate=44100)\n",

```

```

        sd.wait()\n",
    "\n",
    "    # 4) Optional Plot\n",
    "    plt.figure(figsize=(6,3))\n",
    "    plt.plot(data_vals, 'bo-', label='Raw Data')\n",
    "    plt.plot(snapped_vals, 'ro-', label='Snapped
Semitones')\n",
    "    plt.title(f"alpha={alpha_val}, base_freq={base_freq}
Hz")\n",
    "    plt.legend()\n",
    "    plt.show()\n",
    "\n",
    "    print(\"Done playing with alpha=\", alpha_val, \"
base_freq=\", base_freq, \" note_dur=\", note_dur)\"
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code:\n",
        "- **Generates** a small sine-based data array.\n",

```

```

    "- **Quantizes** with your chosen `alpha_val`.\n",
    "- **Plays** short notes for each data point.\n",
    "- **Plots** raw vs. snapped values.\n",
    "\n",
    "## End of Notebook\n",
    "You have now run a complete example in **one** file. No
multiple `.py` files needed!"
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RawValue	SnappedSemitones
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0.357142857	2
0.714285714	2
1.071428571	4
1.428571429	5
1.785714286	7
2.142857143	9
2.5	9
2.857142857	11
3.214285714	12
3.571428571	14
3.928571429	16
4.285714286	17
4.642857143	19
5	19

Chapter 4: Timbre as a Second Dimension

Preliminary Concepts

February 9, 2025

4.1 Introduction

So far, our **Helical Sonification System (HSS)** has relied mainly on *pitch* to represent data. Chapter 4 introduces **timbre** (essentially the “tone color” or spectral quality of the sound) as a *second dimension*. This allows us to convey more information simultaneously and can make the sonification feel more “musical” or expressive.

4.2 Why Timbre?

Definition Timbre is the quality of a sound that distinguishes it from other sounds of the same pitch and loudness. For instance, a trumpet and a flute playing the same note have different *timbres*.

Dimensions of Timbre Timbre is inherently multi-dimensional (involving spectral content, attack transients, vibrato, etc.). However, in this chapter, we focus on **one simple timbre parameter**—often called “brightness” or *spectral centroid*—to keep things tractable.

4.3 One-Dimensional Timbre Parameter

Spectral Centroid or Filter Cutoff

We can simplify timbre to one dimension by:

- Controlling a *filter cutoff* in a synthesizer,
- Scaling the amplitude of higher harmonics,
- Or adjusting a single “brightness” knob in a digital audio engine.

In all these cases, *one real number* (call it T) can shift the perceived “color” from dark (low T) to bright (high T).

4.4 Mapping Data to Timbre

Approach We might let the same data $f(x)$ that drives *pitch* also drive *timbre*, or we might use a second data dimension $g(x)$. Either way, we define a function:

$$\text{timbreParam} = \beta \cdot d,$$

where d is the data or some function of it, and β is a user-chosen sensitivity factor.

Example If $d \in [0, 5]$, setting $\beta = 2$ means `timbreParam` ranges from 0 to 10. A higher value might yield more harmonics, harsher tone, or a more intense filter cutoff.

4.5 Avoiding Complexity

It's easy for timbre mappings to become *overly complex*, overwhelming the listener. At this stage, we:

- Use **one** dimension for timbre,
- Keep pitch the **primary** dimension,
- Possibly combine with amplitude or a second harmonic to represent brightness.

4.6 Conclusion

By adding a timbre axis, we greatly expand the expressive power of HSS. We can encode additional data in a clearly audible way, so that two values (pitch *and* timbre) vary in tandem. However, we should be mindful of *psychoacoustic* factors that can make complex timbres difficult to interpret if not handled carefully.

*Next: We discuss these psychoacoustic and implementation details in depth in the **Expanded Discussion** for Chapter 4.*

Chapter 4: Timbre as a Second Dimension

Expanded Discussion

February 9, 2025

4.1 Recap of Psychoacoustics for Timbre

Multi-Dimensional Nature of Timbre While a single parameter (e.g., brightness) is convenient, research (e.g., *John Grey, 1977*, or *Stephen McAdams*) shows timbre can be conceptualized in a space of at least three dimensions:

- **Spectral Centroid (Brightness)**—the “center of mass” of frequencies,
- **Attack/Decay Transients**—how quickly a sound begins or ends,
- **Spectral Flux**—how partials change over time.

For simplicity, we reduce this to a **single timbre axis**, acknowledging the complexity of real-world timbres.

4.2 Typical Implementations of a Single Timbre Axis

Method 1: Harmonic Scaling

One straightforward approach: add or remove strength in upper harmonics. If our base waveform is a sine wave, we can add a second or third harmonic whose amplitude is controlled by our timbre parameter T .

$$\text{wave}(t) = A \sin(2\pi ft) + T \cdot B \sin(2\pi \cdot 2f \cdot t).$$

Larger T = stronger second harmonic = perceived as brighter or buzzy.

Method 2: Filter Cutoff

Another approach is using a low-pass or band-pass filter. If the cutoff frequency ω_c is:

$$\omega_c = \omega_{\min} + T \cdot (\omega_{\max} - \omega_{\min}),$$

then higher T = higher cutoff = more high-frequency content passes, yielding a brighter sound.

Method 3: Sample-based or Wavetable Interpolation

In more advanced systems, we could crossfade between a dark timbre sample and a bright timbre sample. But for a simple demonstration, adding a second harmonic (Method 1) is typically enough.

4.3 Mapping Data to Timbre (Implementation Details)

Data Range If your data $g(x)$ is in the range $[0, 5]$, define a scaling factor β . Then $\text{timbreParam} = \beta \cdot g(x)$.

- If $\beta = 2$, timbreParam can go up to 10,
- meaning your harmonic amplitude or filter cutoff might range from near 0 up to a bright threshold.

Combining with Pitch We still use α for pitch (as in Chapter 3). Now we have **two data mappings**:

$$\theta = \alpha \cdot f(x), \quad T = \beta \cdot f(x).$$

(Or $f(x)$ vs. $g(x)$ if you have separate data streams.)

4.4 Practical Warnings

- **Listener Overload:** If pitch is already varying quickly, adding fast timbre changes can confuse the ear. Consider smoothing or simpler motion for timbre.
- **Too Bright or Too Loud:** High harmonic levels can create harsh, unpleasant sounds, especially over consumer speakers or headphones.
- **Musical Context:** Some scales or chord progressions depend on timbre changes for expressiveness. A timbre axis can highlight tension/resolution in a piece, but it might also overshadow pitch if overused.

4.5 Case Study: Single Data Stream for Pitch & Timbre

Suppose we have one-dimensional data (e.g., a sine wave from 0 to 5). We might do:

$$\theta = \alpha \cdot d, \quad T = \beta \cdot d.$$

Then each data point d yields a pitch class (snapped to a scale) plus a timbre parameter. Over time, as d rises or falls, *both pitch and brightness* shift in tandem, creating a distinctive sonic “shape.”

4.6 Conclusion

Timbre provides a powerful second dimension to the Helical Sonification System, enabling richer encoding of data. By carefully choosing the mapping function and limiting the parameter range, we can produce noticeable yet not overwhelming timbral shifts. Combined with pitch, this leads to a more expressive and information-rich sonification.

Next: We offer a single Jupyter Notebook that demonstrates pitch + timbre mapping, CSV output, CSV input, and an interactive slider approach.

Chapter 4: Timbre as a Second Dimension

Idiot-Proof Notebook

February 9, 2025

Overview

In this single `.ipynb` file, we illustrate how to use **timbre** as a second dimension in our sonification. We do it in a fully self-contained manner:

- We map data to **pitch** (semidones) and **timbre** (brightness).
- We write these mappings to a CSV (simulating “Program A”).
- We read from CSV, **play** the sound with a simple two-part partial (fundamental + second harmonic scaled by brightness) (“Program B”).
- We include an **interactive slider** demo (`ipywidgets`) so you can adjust pitch and timbre sensitivity in real time.

Below is the complete notebook text. Save it as `Chapter4_Timbre_Notebook.ipynb` and open it in Jupyter. Run each cell from top to bottom. Enjoy!

Chapter4_Timbre_Notebook.ipynb

```

%% md
# Chapter 4: Timbre as a Second Dimension This minimal notebook shows how to add a **timbre axis**
to our Helical Sonification System (HSS). We do it in one file so you can simply open and run
without extra steps.## Steps1. Generate a small data array.2. Map pitch (snapped to a scale) and a
timbre parameter (brightness).3. Play them with a fundamental + second harmonic for brightness.4.
Provide an interactive slider demo using `ipywidgets`.
%%
import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd
import ipywidgets as widgets
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from IPython.display import display

# Basic pitch snap function
def snap_to_scale(theta_value, scale_set, semitones_per_octave=12):
    octave_int = int(theta_value // semitones_per_octave)
    remainder = theta_value - octave_int * semitones_per_octave
    best_note = None
    best_diff = 9999
    for note in scale_set:
        diff = abs(note - remainder)
        if diff < best_diff:
            best_diff = diff
            best_note = note
    snapped_value = octave_int * semitones_per_octave + best_note
    return snapped_value

def semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, semitone_offset):
    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))

# Map data to pitch & timbre
def map_pitch_and_timbre(data_array, alpha=1.0, beta=1.0, scale_set=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11]):
    pitch_list = []
    timbre_list = []
    for val in data_array:
        raw_pitch = alpha * val
        snapped_pitch = snap_to_scale(raw_pitch, scale_set)
        # timbre = beta * val (a simple measure of brightness)
        tparam = beta * val
        pitch_list.append(snapped_pitch)
        timbre_list.append(tparam)
    return np.array(pitch_list), np.array(timbre_list)

print("Chapter 4 imports & functions are ready.")
%% md
## Non-Interactive Example
Here we just create a data set, map pitch/timbre, and play it once.
%%
# Generate data and play once
data = np.linspace(0, 5, 8)
alpha_val = 3.0 # pitch sensitivity
beta_val = 1.5 # timbre sensitivity
pitch_arr, timbre_arr = map_pitch_and_timbre(data, alpha=alpha_val, beta=beta_val)

print("Data:", data)
print("Pitch semitones:", pitch_arr)
print("Timbre param:", timbre_arr)

samplerate = 44100
base_freq = 220.0
note_duration = 0.4

for ps, tv in zip(pitch_arr, timbre_arr):
    freq = semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, ps)
    t = np.linspace(0, note_duration, int(samplerate*note_duration), endpoint=False)
    fundamental = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)
    second_harm = 0.3 * tv * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*(2*freq)*t)
    wave = fundamental + second_harm
    sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)
    sd.wait()

print("Done playing once.")
%% md
## Interactive Slider Demo
Move the sliders to see how changing `alpha` (pitch scale) and `beta` (timbre scale) affect the
playback. Also adjust `base_freq` and `note_duration` if you want.
%%

```

```

@widgets.interact(alpha_val=(0.5, 8.0, 0.5),
                  beta_val=(0.0, 5.0, 0.5),
                  base_freq=(110, 440, 10),
                  note_duration=(0.1, 1.0, 0.1))
def interactive_timbre(alpha_val=3.0, beta_val=1.5, base_freq=220, note_duration=0.3):
    data = np.linspace(0, 5, 8)
    pitch_arr, timbre_arr = map_pitch_and_timbre(data, alpha=alpha_val, beta=beta_val)

    samplerate = 44100
    for ps, tv in zip(pitch_arr, timbre_arr):
        freq = semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, ps)
        t = np.linspace(0, note_duration, int(samplerate*note_duration), endpoint=False)
        fundamental = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)
        second_harm = 0.3 * tv * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*(2*freq)*t)
        wave = fundamental + second_harm
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)
        sd.wait()

# quick visualization
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
plt.figure(figsize=(6,3))
plt.plot(pitch_arr, 'ro-', label='Pitch Semitones')
plt.plot(timbre_arr, 'bo--', label='Timbre Param')
plt.title(f"alpha={alpha_val}, beta={beta_val}, base={base_freq}")
plt.legend()
plt.show()
print("Played.")

```

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        Provide an interactive slider demo using `ipywidgets`."
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```

```

"import ipywidgets as widgets\n",
"import matplotlib.pyplot as plt\n",
"from IPython.display import display\n",
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"# Basic pitch snap function\n",
"def snap_to_scale(theta_value, scale_set,
semitones_per_octave=12):\n",
"    octave_int = int(theta_value // semitones_per_octave)\n",
"    remainder = theta_value -
octave_int*semitones_per_octave\n",
"    best_note = None\n",
"    best_diff = 9999\n",
"    for note in scale_set:\n",
"        diff = abs(note - remainder)\n",
"        if diff < best_diff:\n",
"            best_diff = diff\n",
"            best_note = note\n",
"    snapped_value = octave_int * semitones_per_octave +
best_note\n",
"    return snapped_value\n",
"\n",
"def semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, semitone_offset):\n",
"    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))\n",
"\n",
"# Map data to pitch & timbre\n",
"def map_pitch_and_timbre(data_array, alpha=1.0, beta=1.0,
scale_set=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11]):\n",
"    pitch_list = []\n",
"    timbre_list = []\n",
"    for val in data_array:\n",

```



```

        raw_pitch = alpha * val\n",
        snapped_pitch = snap_to_scale(raw_pitch, scale_set)\n",
        # timbre = beta * val (a simple measure of
brightness)\n",
        tparam = beta * val\n",
        pitch_list.append(snapped_pitch)\n",
        timbre_list.append(tparam)\n",
        return np.array(pitch_list), np.array(timbre_list)\n",
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        print("\nChapter 4 imports & functions are ready.\n")"
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    "data = np.linspace(0, 5, 8)\n",
    "alpha_val = 3.0  # pitch sensitivity\n",
    "beta_val = 1.5   # timbre sensitivity\n",
    "pitch_arr, timbre_arr = map_pitch_and_timbre(data,
alpha=alpha_val, beta=beta_val)\n",
    "\n",
    "print(\"Data:\", data)\n",
    "print(\"Pitch semitones:\", pitch_arr)\n",
    "print(\"Timbre param:\", timbre_arr)\n",
    "\n",
    "samplerate = 44100\n",
    "base_freq = 220.0\n",
    "note_duration = 0.4\n",
    "\n",
    "for ps, tv in zip(pitch_arr, timbre_arr):\n",
    "    freq = semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, ps)\n",
    "    t = np.linspace(0, note_duration,
int(samplerate*note_duration), endpoint=False)\n",
    "    fundamental = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)\n",
    "    second_harm = 0.3 * tv * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*(2*freq)*t)\n",
    "    wave = fundamental + second_harm\n",
    "    sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)\n",

```

```

        "    sd.wait()\n",
        "print(\"Done playing once.\")"
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and `note_duration` if you want."
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```

```

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        base_freq=(110, 440, 10),\n",
        note_duration=(0.1, 1.0, 0.1))\n",
    "def interactive_timbre(alpha_val=3.0, beta_val=1.5,
base_freq=220, note_duration=0.3):\n",
    "    data = np.linspace(0, 5, 8)\n",
    "    pitch_arr, timbre_arr = map_pitch_and_timbre(data,
alpha=alpha_val, beta=beta_val)\n",
    "\n",
    "    samplerate = 44100\n",
    "    for ps, tv in zip(pitch_arr, timbre_arr):\n",
    "        freq = semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, ps)\n",
    "        t = np.linspace(0, note_duration,
int(samplerate*note_duration), endpoint=False)\n",
    "        fundamental = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)\n",
    "        second_harm = 0.3 * tv *
np.sin(2.0*np.pi*(2*freq)*t)\n",
    "        wave = fundamental + second_harm\n",
    "        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)\n",
    "        sd.wait()\n",
    "\n",
    "    # quick visualization\n",
    "    import matplotlib.pyplot as plt\n",
    "    plt.figure(figsize=(6,3))\n",
    "    plt.plot(pitch_arr, 'ro-', label='Pitch Semitones')\n",
    "    plt.plot(timbre_arr, 'bo--', label='Timbre Param')\n",
    "    plt.title(f"alpha={alpha_val}, beta={beta_val},
base={base_freq}")\n",
    "    plt.legend()\n",
    "    plt.show()\n",

```

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Chapter 5: Practical Sonification of Mathematical Functions

Preliminary Concepts

February 9, 2025

5.1 Introduction

In previous chapters, we explored how to map data values to a **helical pitch axis** and how to incorporate a **timbre** dimension. Now, we apply these tools to **practical mathematical functions** often encountered in physics, calculus, and related fields.

5.2 Mapping Typical Math/Physics Functions

Examples Common functions to sonify include:

- Polynomial functions ($y = x^2$, $y = x^3 - x$, etc.),
- Exponential or damped sine waves ($y = e^{-x} \sin(10x)$),
- Parametric curves (Lissajous, cycloids, brachistochrone, etc.).

Key Idea We treat the independent variable as *time* (or a discrete set of steps), while the function value controls *pitch* and possibly *timbre*.

5.3 Ensuring Musical Coherence

Scale Quantization

We still **snap** pitch values to a chosen scale to avoid sirens or continuous glissandos. If the function output is large or negative, we may need to:

- Rescale or clamp the function range,
- Shift negative values up into a valid pitch range.

Rhythmic Structuring

Instead of playing every tiny increment, we place notes on a *beat grid* (e.g., 16th notes at a chosen tempo). This ensures the result feels musical.

5.4 Handling Wide or High-Frequency Ranges

- **Downsampling or Smoothing:** If a function changes extremely rapidly, we can sample fewer points or smooth the data to avoid rapid, unmusical pitch jumps.
- **Clamping Outliers:** If $f(x)$ occasionally spikes, it might jump out of hearing range. We can clamp or log-scale the data.

5.5 Conclusion

By applying these concepts, we can transform standard math/physics functions into audible, **musically coherent** sequences or textures. In the *Expanded Discussion*, we will delve deeper into specific examples (damped sine, parametric shapes) and typical pitfalls (aliasing, huge value swings, etc.).

Next: The Expanded Discussion for Chapter 5, with more detail on function selection, domain stepping, advanced scaling, and demonstration.

Chapter 5: Practical Sonification of Mathematical Functions

Expanded Discussion

February 9, 2025

5.1 Example Function: Damped Sine

A classic function for demonstration is:

$$y = e^{-x} \sin(10x),$$

which oscillates increasingly rapidly while its amplitude decays over x . This produces a visually interesting curve and can yield a distinctive *musical contour*.

Domain Selection

We might let x run from 0 to, say, 3π , giving 10–30 oscillations depending on how we space points.

Scaling

If y ends up in $[-1, 1]$, we can multiply by some factor α to map it into our pitch range. E.g., $\theta = 15 \cdot y$. We still snap to a scale (major, minor, etc.) to maintain musical intervals.

5.2 Advanced Shapes: Lissajous or Cycloids

Parametric Curves Some shapes (like $x(t)$, $y(t)$) can be turned into pitch & timbre by letting $y(t)$ feed the pitch axis, and $x(t)$ feed the timbre axis, or vice versa. For instance, a cycloid:

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = R(t - \sin t), \\ y(t) = R(1 - \cos t), \end{cases}$$

could feed $y(t)$ into pitch, $x(t)$ into timbre.

5.3 Pitfalls and Tips

- **Excessive Range:** Many math functions can blow up to large values. Consider a bounding approach or a transform (e.g., $\log(1 + |y|)$).
- **Zero Crossings:** Some functions cross zero or go negative. This is fine as long as you handle negative pitches carefully (e.g., shift or clamp them).
- **Temporal Behavior:** If $f(x)$ is extremely wiggly, sample fewer points or apply smoothing to avoid “spastic” music.

5.4 Demonstration Structure

Approach In the code examples, we:

1. Choose a function (like $y = e^{-x} \sin(10x)$).
2. Step x in discrete intervals (like 0, 0.2, 0.4, ...).
3. Scale & snap the function output for pitch.
4. Optionally map the same or a second function to timbre.
5. Write out to CSV (like “Program A”), then read and play (like “Program B”) or do an all-in-one approach.

Interactive Sliders

For added clarity, we let the user adjust parameters such as:

- α : pitch scale factor,
- x_{\max} : the domain limit for x ,
- beats or tempo for the playback speed.

5.5 Conclusion

Sonifying math functions can illuminate patterns—like how a damped sine wave’s amplitude shrinks or how a cycloid’s periodic arcs might map to melodic cycles. By carefully controlling *scale quantization*, *timbre parameters*, and *time structuring*, we ensure a **musical** yet scientifically grounded experience.

Next, we demonstrate a single notebook for Chapter 5 that applies these ideas to a damped sine function (or other function you choose) in a step-by-step, “idiot-proof” manner.

Chapter5_FunctionSonification.ipynb

```

%% md
# Chapter 5: Practical Sonification of a Damped Sine

This notebook demonstrates how to sonify a typical math function, like:
\[
y(x) = e^{-x} \sin(10x), \text{quad } x \text{ in } [0, x_{\max}].
\]
We'll:
1. Generate an array of  $x$  values.
2. Compute  $y(x)$  for each  $x$ , then map it to pitch (and optionally timbre) using a scale.
3. Write to a CSV (Program A style), read it back (Program B style), and do a short playback.
4. Provide an interactive slider with `ipywidgets` so we can adjust domain range, pitch scale, etc.

**Make sure** you've installed: `numpy`, `sounddevice`, `pandas`, `ipywidgets`, `matplotlib` in your environment. Enjoy!
%%
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import csv
import sounddevice as sd
import ipywidgets as widgets
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from IPython.display import display

print("Chapter 5 imports loaded.")
%% md
## Snap-to-scale & pitch conversion functions
We'll reuse the logic from previous chapters: a function to snap real values to a scale, plus something to handle semitone -> frequency conversions.

%%
def snap_to_scale(theta_value, scale_set, semitones_per_octave=12):
    octave_int = int(theta_value // semitones_per_octave)
    remainder = theta_value - octave_int * semitones_per_octave
    best_note = None
    best_diff = 9999
    for note in scale_set:
        diff = abs(note - remainder)
        if diff < best_diff:
            best_diff = diff
            best_note = note
    snapped_value = octave_int * semitones_per_octave + best_note
    return snapped_value

def semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, semitone_offset):
    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))

print("Snap-to-scale and pitch conversion functions ready.")
%% md
## Part A: Generate Damped Sine Data, Snap to Pitch, Write CSV
We define a function:
\[
y(x) = e^{-x} \sin(10x), \text{quad } x \text{ in } [0, x_{\max}].
\]
We'll sample it at `num_points`. Then for each  $y$ , we multiply by `alpha` to get semitones, snap to a scale, and store in CSV.
%%
def damped_sine(x):
    return np.exp(-x) * np.sin(10*x)

def generate_and_write_csv(x_max=6.28, num_points=20, alpha=15.0, scale=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11],
    csv_name="ch5_damped_sine.csv"):
    x_vals = np.linspace(0, x_max, num_points)
    y_vals = [damped_sine(x) for x in x_vals]

    # Snap pitch
    pitch_list = []
    for y in y_vals:
        raw_pitch = alpha * y # scale the function's range
        snapped = snap_to_scale(raw_pitch, scale)
        pitch_list.append(snapped)

    with open(csv_name, "w", newline="") as f:
        writer = csv.writer(f)
        writer.writerow(["xValue", "yValue", "PitchSemitone"])
        for xv, yv, ps in zip(x_vals, y_vals, pitch_list):
            writer.writerow([xv, yv, ps])

```

```

    return x_vals, y_vals, pitch_list

print("Function to generate & write CSV is ready.")
### md
Let's do a quick run with `x_max=6.28` (~2\(\pi\)), `num_points=20`, `alpha=15`.
### md
x_vals, y_vals, pitch_list = generate_and_write_csv(
    x_max=6.28,
    num_points=20,
    alpha=15.0,
    scale=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11],
    csv_name="ch5_damped_sine.csv"
)

print("x_vals:", x_vals)
print("y_vals:", y_vals)
print("pitch_list:", pitch_list)
print("CSV written: ch5_damped_sine.csv")
### md
## Part B: Read CSV, Playback
We'll read the file we just wrote, interpret the `PitchSemitone` column, and produce short notes.
We can also plot `(x, y)` to see the function's shape vs. the snapped pitches.
### md
def read_and_play(csv_name="ch5_damped_sine.csv", base_freq=220.0, note_duration=0.3,
    samplerate=44100):
    df = pd.read_csv(csv_name)
    print(df.head())

    x_arr = df["xValue"].to_numpy()
    y_arr = df["yValue"].to_numpy()
    pitch_arr = df["PitchSemitone"].to_numpy()

    # Plot for visual check
    plt.figure(figsize=(7,3))
    plt.plot(x_arr, y_arr, 'b.-', label="y(x)")
    plt.title("Damped Sine + Snapped Pitch")
    plt.xlabel("x")
    plt.ylabel("y")
    plt.legend()
    plt.show()

    # Playback: fundamental only for simplicity
    for ps in pitch_arr:
        freq = base_freq * (2.0 ** (ps / 12.0))
        t = np.linspace(0, note_duration, int(samplerate*note_duration), endpoint=False)
        wave = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)
        sd.wait()

    print("Done playing.")

print("Function to read CSV & play is ready.")
### md
### Let's test the playback
### md
read_and_play(
    csv_name="ch5_damped_sine.csv",
    base_freq=220.0,
    note_duration=0.3,
    samplerate=44100
)
### md
## Part C: Interactive Sliders
We'll let you pick:
- `x_max` (domain limit)
- `num_points` (how many samples)
- `alpha` (pitch scale)
- `base_freq` and `note_duration` for playback.

Each time you change a slider, the code regenerates the function, snaps the pitches, writes a CSV,
reads it, and then plays the notes. We also plot `(x, y)`.
### md
@widgets.interact(
    x_max=(1.0, 10.0, 0.5),
    num_points=(5, 50, 5),
    alpha=(5.0, 25.0, 1.0),
    base_freq=(110, 440, 10),
    note_duration=(0.1, 1.0, 0.1)
)
def interactive_damped_sine(
    x_max=6.28,

```

```
num_points=20,  
alpha=15.0,  
base_freq=220.0,  
note_duration=0.3  
):  
    # Step 1: Generate & write CSV  
    _x, _y, _p = generate_and_write_csv(  
        x_max=x_max,  
        num_points=num_points,  
        alpha=alpha,  
        scale=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11],  
        csv_name="ch5_damped_sine.csv"  
    )  
  
    # Step 2: Read & playback  
    read_and_play(  
        csv_name="ch5_damped_sine.csv",  
        base_freq=base_freq,  
        note_duration=note_duration,  
        samplerate=44100  
    )  
    print("Done interactive call.")  
###  
  
###
```

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function, like:\n",
        "\n",
        "
$$y(x) = e^{-x} \sin(10x), \text{quad } x \in [0, x_{\max}].$$

        "\n",
        "We'll:\n",
        "1. Generate an array of  $(x)$  values.\n",
        "2. Compute  $(y)$  for each  $(x)$ , then map it to pitch (and  
optionally timbre) using a scale.\n",
        "3. Write to a CSV (Program A style), read it back (Program B  
style), and do a short playback.\n",
        "4. Provide an interactive slider with `ipywidgets` so we can  
adjust domain range, pitch scale, etc.\n",
        "\n",
        "***Make sure** you've installed: `numpy`, `sounddevice`,  
`pandas`, `ipywidgets`, `matplotlib` in your environment. Enjoy!"
      ]
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  ]
}

```

```
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    "import pandas as pd\n",
    "import csv\n",
    "import sounddevice as sd\n",
    "import ipywidgets as widgets\n",
    "import matplotlib.pyplot as plt\n",
    "from IPython.display import display\n",
    "\n",
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```

```

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      "## Snap-to-scale & pitch conversion functions\n",
      "We'll reuse the logic from previous chapters: a function to  

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```

```

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    "def snap_to_scale(theta_value, scale_set,
semitones_per_octave=12):\n",
    "    octave_int = int(theta_value // semitones_per_octave)\n",
    "    remainder = theta_value -
octave_int*semitones_per_octave\n",
    "    best_note = None\n",
    "    best_diff = 9999\n",
    "    for note in scale_set:\n",
    "        diff = abs(note - remainder)\n",
    "        if diff < best_diff:\n",
    "            best_diff = diff\n",
    "            best_note = note\n",
    "    snapped_value = octave_int * semitones_per_octave +
best_note\n",
    "    return snapped_value\n",
    "\n",
    "def semitone_to_frequency(base_freq, semitone_offset):\n",
    "    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))\n",
    "\n",
    "print(\"Snap-to-scale and pitch conversion functions ready.\")"
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```



```

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  "## Part A: Generate Damped Sine Data, Snap to Pitch, Write CSV\n",
  "We define a function:\n",
  "\n",
  "   $y(x) = e^{-x} \sin(10x)$ , \quad  $x \in [0, x_{\max}]$ .\n",
  "\n",
  "We'll sample it at `num_points`. Then for each  $y$ , we multiply by `alpha` to get semitones, snap to a scale, and store in CSV."
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```

```

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    "def damped_sine(x):\n",
    "    return np.exp(-x) * np.sin(10*x)\n",
    "\n",
    "def generate_and_write_csv(x_max=6.28, num_points=20,\nalpha=15.0, scale=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11],\ncsv_name=\"ch5_damped_sine.csv\"):\n",
    "    x_vals = np.linspace(0, x_max, num_points)\n",
    "    y_vals = [damped_sine(x) for x in x_vals]\n",
    "\n",
    "    # Snap pitch\n",
    "    pitch_list = []\n",
    "    for y in y_vals:\n",
    "        raw_pitch = alpha * y # scale the function's range\n",
    "        snapped = snap_to_scale(raw_pitch, scale)\n",
    "        pitch_list.append(snapped)\n",
    "\n",
    "    with open(csv_name, \"w\", newline=\"\") as f:\n",
    "        writer = csv.writer(f)\n",
    "        writer.writerow([\"xValue\", \"yValue\",\n\"PitchSemitone\"])\n",
    "        for xv, yv, ps in zip(x_vals, y_vals, pitch_list):\n",
    "            writer.writerow([xv, yv, ps])

```

```

        "\n",
        "    return x_vals, y_vals, pitch_list\n",
        "\n",
        "print(\"Function to generate & write CSV is ready.\")"
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`num_points=20`, `alpha=15`."
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3.63578947\n",
    " 3.96631579 4.29684211 4.62736842 4.95789474 5.28842105
5.61894737\n",
    " 5.94947368 6.28          ]\n",
    "y_vals: [np.float64(0.0), np.float64(-0.11708033289943327),
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np.float64(-0.0012754752392541233),
np.float64(0.0005065296411470002), np.float64(-5.9663473161637896e-
05)]\n",
    "pitch_list: [0, -1, 2, -3, 2, -3, 2, -1, 2, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1,
0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1]\n",
    "CSV written: ch5_damped_sine.csv\n"
  ]
}
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  "x_vals, y_vals, pitch_list = generate_and_write_csv(\n",
  "    x_max=6.28,\n",
  "    num_points=20,\n",
  "    alpha=15.0,\n",

```

```

        scale=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11],\n",
        csv_name="ch5_damped_sine.csv"\n",
    )\n",
    "\n",
    "print(\"x_vals:\", x_vals)\n",
    "print(\"y_vals:\", y_vals)\n",
    "print(\"pitch_list:\", pitch_list)\n",
    "print(\"CSV written: ch5_damped_sine.csv\")"
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        "We'll read the file we just wrote, interpret the\n`PitchSemitone` column, and produce short notes. We can also plot\n`(x, y)` to see the function's shape vs. the snapped pitches."
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  "def read_and_play(csv_name=\"ch5_damped_sine.csv\",
base_freq=220.0, note_duration=0.3, samplerate=44100):\n",
  "    df = pd.read_csv(csv_name)\n",
  "    print(df.head())\n",
  "\n",
  "    x_arr = df[\"xValue\"].to_numpy()\n",
  "    y_arr = df[\"yValue\"].to_numpy()\n",
  "    pitch_arr = df[\"PitchSemitone\"].to_numpy()\n",
  "\n",
  "    # Plot for visual check\n",
  "    plt.figure(figsize=(7,3))\n",
  "    plt.plot(x_arr, y_arr, 'b.-', label=\"y(x)\")\n",
  "    plt.title(\"Damped Sine + Snapped Pitch\")\n",
  "    plt.xlabel(\"x\")

```

```

        plt.ylabel("\ny")\n",
        plt.legend()\n",
        plt.show()\n",
    "\n",
    "    # Playback: fundamental only for simplicity\n",
    "    for ps in pitch_arr:\n",
    "        freq = base_freq * (2.0 ** (ps / 12.0))\n",
    "        t = np.linspace(0, note_duration,
int(samplerate*note_duration), endpoint=False)\n",
    "        wave = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)\n",
    "        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)\n",
    "        sd.wait()\n",
    "\n",
    "    print("\nDone playing.")\n",
    "\n",
    "print("\nFunction to read CSV & play is ready.")"
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```

```

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        "\"2  0.661053  0.166006          2\n",
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      ]
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```


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"<Figure size 700x300 with 1 Axes>"

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    "- `alpha` (pitch scale)\n",
    "- `base_freq` and `note_duration` for playback.\n",
    "\n",
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"    alpha=(5.0, 25.0, 1.0),\n",
"    base_freq=(110, 440, 10),\n",
"    note_duration=(0.1, 1.0, 0.1)\n",
")\n",
"def interactive_damped_sine(\n",
"    x_max=6.28,\n",
"    num_points=20,\n",
"    alpha=15.0,\n",
"    base_freq=220.0,\n",
"    note_duration=0.3\n",
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"    # Step 1: Generate & write CSV\n",
"    _x, _y, _p = generate_and_write_csv(\n",
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```

```

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1.368421052631579	0.22884315620042545	4
1.7105263157894737	-0.178056753	-3
2.0526315789473686	0.12767641129352963	2
2.3947368421052633	-0.084506422	-1
2.736842105263158	0.050976857	0
3.0789473684210527	-0.026973135	-1
3.4210526315789473	0.011112861240602272	0
3.763157894736842	-0.00156627	-1
4.105263157894737	-0.003467668	-1
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6.5	0.001243087	0

Chapter 6: Rhythm, Meter, and Polyrhythms

(Optional)

Preliminary Concepts

February 9, 2025

6.1 Introduction

In previous chapters, we focused primarily on **pitch** (along a helical axis) and **timbre** (one extra dimension) for sonification. Chapter 6 explores **rhythm**, **meter**, and the intriguing concept of **polyrhythms** as additional ways to encode or highlight data.

6.2 Why Rhythm Matters

Temporal Structure When notes occur in a steady beat or metrical grid, listeners more easily perceive patterns as *musical gestures*. Rhythmic frameworks can also make it simpler to interpret the timing of data events (e.g., the progression of a function over time).

Basic vs. Complex Meters

- **Simple Meters** (4/4, 3/4, etc.) create a regular pulse, dividing time into equal measures and beats.
- **Polyrhythms** occur when multiple pulses or subdivisions run simultaneously at different rates (e.g., a 3:4 ratio).

6.3 Data Encoding Through Rhythm

Mapping Data to Rhythm Instead of mapping data just to pitch or timbre, we can map it to:

- **Note Durations:** a larger data value means a longer note, smaller data means a shorter note.
- **Onset Timing (Events):** data crossing certain thresholds could trigger an extra beat or skip a beat.

Polyrhythm as Extra Dimension A single data stream might drive *one* rhythmic pulse while a second data stream drives *another*, creating a complex interplay that can represent multi-dimensional data.

6.4 Simplifying Polyrhythms

Example: 3:4 Polyrhythm We might run a “3” pulse and a “4” pulse together, each triggering notes in different instruments or pitch ranges. Over the course of one measure, the pulses align at the start, diverge in timing, then re-align at the measure’s end.

6.5 Conclusion

Rhythm and meter are powerful tools for making sonification feel more *musical* and for encoding additional data dimensions. Polyrhythms, in particular, can represent parallel data streams or highlight complex relationships. In the next (expanded) discussion, we’ll delve deeper into various rhythmic mapping strategies, usage tips, and a step-by-step example.

Next: The Expanded Discussion for Chapter 6, exploring polyrhythms and practical code approaches.

Chapter 6: Rhythm, Meter, and Polyrhythms

(Optional)

Expanded Discussion

February 9, 2025

6.1 Detailed Look at Meter

Simple Meters A meter like 4/4 means four beats per measure, each beat typically receiving one quarter-note's worth of time. The sonification might place each data point on consecutive quarter beats, or compress/expand time for a faster/slower tempo.

Compound & Odd Meters Meters like 6/8 or 5/4 can give a different feel—some data might be mapped to a 5-beat measure to highlight irregular cycles or phases.

6.2 Polyrhythms: 3:4 Example

Definition A polyrhythm is formed when two (or more) rhythmic streams are played simultaneously but have different beat subdivisions. For instance:

- Stream A divides the measure into 3 equal segments,
- Stream B divides the same measure into 4 equal segments.

These two streams only align at the measure's start and end, creating interesting rhythmic interference patterns in between.

Data Encoding Strategy

1. **Voice A (3-subdivision)** might represent *data series 1* (e.g., pitch in a certain range or timbre).
2. **Voice B (4-subdivision)** might represent *data series 2* or a second dimension.

Listeners hear the interplay, potentially perceiving relationships between the data sets if the pulses clash or align at certain points.

6.3 Practical Implementation Tips

Tempo and Looping When using polyrhythms for sonification, it’s common to loop over one measure repeatedly or progress measure by measure:

- If the data is large, break it into chunks—each chunk maps to one measure.
- Or let the measure represent a time slice in real data.

Instrument Variation Using different instrument timbres or pitch ranges for each polyrhythmic stream can help the ear separate them. For example, a bell-like tone for the 3-subdivision, and a bass tone for the 4-subdivision.

6.4 Example: 3:4 Polyrhythm with Sine Tones

In the forthcoming code:

- We’ll define a measure length (e.g., 2 seconds),
- Subdivide it into 3 equal triggers for one voice, 4 for the other,
- Each voice can map different data arrays to pitch or amplitude.

Advantages

- Clear demonstration of polyrhythm alignment (the two voices only line up at measure boundaries).
- If the data is correlated, the streams might converge more often, producing interesting patterns.

6.5 Limitations

Listener Overload Too many polyrhythms (e.g., 3:4:5) can be overwhelming unless carefully spaced or assigned to distinct timbral “channels.”

Measure vs. Real Time Mapping data into polyrhythms implies a “musical time” approach rather than real-time streaming. For real-time data, polyrhythm might be best if the data itself inherently cycles or we artificially slice the data into measure-sized chunks.

6.6 Conclusion

Polyrhythms offer a powerful extension to the Helical Sonification System, allowing multiple data streams to unfold in parallel while maintaining a cohesive rhythmic structure. In the accompanying Jupyter Notebook, we demonstrate a simple *3:4 polyrhythm* example with optional pitch or amplitude mapping for each stream. Experiment with tempo, subdivision, and data arrays to discover new ways of hearing your data sets.

Chapter6_Rhythm_Notebook.ipynb

```

%% md
# Chapter 6: Rhythm and Polyrrhythms (Revised)

In this notebook, we demonstrate a simple 3:4 polyrrhythm approach without using
`sounddevice.get_stream_time()`, since it's not supported in some versions of `sounddevice`.
Instead, we accumulate times ourselves.
%%
import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd
import ipywidgets as widgets
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
print("Chapter 6 polyrrhythm notebook (revised) loaded.")
%% md
## Updated `play_polyrrhythm()`
We:
- Compute times for stream A (subdiv_a triggers) and stream B (subdiv_b triggers).
- Merge them into a single sorted list of events `(t_event, freq)` .
- We keep an internal `last_event_time` and do `sleep(wait_time)` to schedule.
- We never call `sd.get_stream_time()` or `sd.wait()` for time alignment beyond note playback.
%%
def play_polyrrhythm(
    measure_duration=2.0,
    subdiv_a=3,
    subdiv_b=4,
    freq_a=440.0,
    freq_b=220.0,
    data_a=None,
    data_b=None,
    alpha_a=0.0,
    alpha_b=0.0,
    samplerate=44100
):
    """
    Plays one measure of polyrrhythm:
    - Stream A with subdiv_a triggers
    - Stream B with subdiv_b triggers
    measure duration: total length of the measure in seconds.
    freq_a / freq_b: base frequency for each stream.
    data_a / data_b: optional arrays for offsetting pitch. Must have length >= subdiv_a or
    subdiv_b.
    alpha_a / alpha_b: how strongly we map data to semitone offset.
    """

    # times at which Stream A triggers
    a_times = np.linspace(0, measure_duration*(subdiv_a-1)/subdiv_a, subdiv_a)
    # times at which Stream B triggers
    b_times = np.linspace(0, measure_duration*(subdiv_b-1)/subdiv_b, subdiv_b)

    # If no data arrays are given, default to zeros.
    if data_a is None:
        data_a = np.zeros(subdiv_a)
    if data_b is None:
        data_b = np.zeros(subdiv_b)
    data_a = data_a[:subdiv_a]
    data_b = data_b[:subdiv_b]

    # Build an event list: (time, 'A'/'B', freq)
    events = []
    for i, t_a in enumerate(a_times):
        pitch_offset = alpha_a * data_a[i]
        final_freq = freq_a * (2.0 ** (pitch_offset/12.0))
        events.append((t_a, 'A', final_freq))

    for j, t_b in enumerate(b_times):
        pitch_offset = alpha_b * data_b[j]
        final_freq = freq_b * (2.0 ** (pitch_offset/12.0))
        events.append((t_b, 'B', final_freq))

    events.sort(key=lambda e: e[0])

    # beep_dur is how long each beep lasts
    beep_dur = measure_duration / (max(subdiv_a, subdiv_b)*2)

    last_event_time = 0.0
    for (t_event, stream_id, freq) in events:
        wait_time = t_event - last_event_time

```



```

    if wait_time > 0:
        sd.sleep(int(wait_time * 1000))
    last_event_time = t_event

    # generate a short beep
    t = np.linspace(0, beep_dur, int(samplerate*beep_dur), endpoint=False)
    wave = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)

    sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)
    sd.wait()

# end of measure: if there's leftover time
leftover = measure_duration - last_event_time
if leftover > 0:
    sd.sleep(int(leftover*1000))
print("Finished one measure of polyrhythm.")

print("play_polyrhythm function is now revised.")
""" md
## Single Measure Test
Here, we do a single measure with 3:4 subdivisions at measure=2.0s.  Frequencies: A=440, B=220.  No
pitch offset.
"""
play_polyrhythm(
    measure_duration=2.0,
    subdiv_a=3,
    subdiv_b=4,
    freq_a=440.0,
    freq_b=220.0,
    data_a=None,
    data_b=None,
    alpha_a=0.0,
    alpha_b=0.0
)
""" md
## Interactive Sliders
Let's let you vary measure duration, base frequencies, and the alpha offsets (pitch offsets from
data). We'll use small arrays for `data_a` and `data_b` so each sub-trigger can differ in pitch if
`alpha` is nonzero.
"""
@widgets.interact(
    measure_duration=(1.0, 5.0, 0.5),
    freq_a=(110, 660, 10),
    freq_b=(110, 660, 10),
    alpha_a=(0.0, 12.0, 1.0),
    alpha_b=(0.0, 12.0, 1.0)
)
def interactive_polyrhythm(
    measure_duration=2.0,
    freq_a=440.0,
    freq_b=220.0,
    alpha_a=0.0,
    alpha_b=0.0
):
    data_a = np.array([0, 2, 5]) # for the 3-subdiv
    data_b = np.array([0, 3, 6, 9]) # for the 4-subdiv

    print("3:4 polyrhythm => measure=", measure_duration,
          "freq_a=", freq_a, "freq_b=", freq_b,
          "alpha_a=", alpha_a, "alpha_b=", alpha_b)

    play_polyrhythm(
        measure_duration=measure_duration,
        subdiv_a=3,
        subdiv_b=4,
        freq_a=freq_a,
        freq_b=freq_b,
        data_a=data_a,
        data_b=data_b,
        alpha_a=alpha_a,
        alpha_b=alpha_b
    )
    print("Done interactive polyrhythm.")
"""

```

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        "- Compute times for stream A (subdiv_a triggers) and stream B (subdiv_b triggers).\n",

```

"- Merge them into a single sorted list of events `(t_event, freq)`.\\n",

"- We keep an internal `last_event_time` and do `sleep(wait_time)` to schedule.\\n",

"- We never call `sd.get_stream_time()` or `sd.wait()` for time alignment beyond note playback."

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"    freq_a / freq_b: base frequency for each stream.\n",
"    data_a / data_b: optional arrays for offsetting pitch. Must
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"    alpha_a / alpha_b: how strongly we map data to semitone
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"\n",
"    # times at which Stream A triggers\n",
"    a_times = np.linspace(0, measure_duration*(subdiv_a-
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"    b_times = np.linspace(0, measure_duration*(subdiv_b-
1)/subdiv_b, subdiv_b)\n",
"\n",
"    # If no data arrays are given, default to zeros.\n",

```

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"    data_b = data_b[:subdiv_b]\n",
"\n",
"    # Build an event list: (time, 'A'/'B', freq)\n",
"    events = []\n",
"    for i, t_a in enumerate(a_times):\n",
"        pitch_offset = alpha_a * data_a[i]\n",
"        final_freq = freq_a * (2.0 ** (pitch_offset/12.0))\n",
"        events.append((t_a, 'A', final_freq))\n",
"\n",
"    for j, t_b in enumerate(b_times):\n",
"        pitch_offset = alpha_b * data_b[j]\n",
"        final_freq = freq_b * (2.0 ** (pitch_offset/12.0))\n",
"        events.append((t_b, 'B', final_freq))\n",
"\n",
"    events.sort(key=lambda e: e[0])\n",
"\n",
"    # beep_dur is how long each beep lasts\n",
"    beep_dur = measure_duration / (max(subdiv_a, subdiv_b)*2)\n",
"\n",
"    last_event_time = 0.0\n",
"    for (t_event, stream_id, freq) in events:\n",
"        wait_time = t_event - last_event_time\n",
"        if wait_time > 0:\n",

```

```

        sd.sleep(int(wait_time * 1000))\n",
        last_event_time = t_event\n",
        "\n",
        # generate a short beep\n",
        t = np.linspace(0, beep_dur, int(samplerate*beep_dur),
endpoint=False)\n",
        wave = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)\n",
        "\n",
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)\n",
        sd.wait()\n",
        "\n",
        # end of measure: if there's leftover time\n",
        leftover = measure_duration - last_event_time\n",
        if leftover > 0:\n",
        sd.sleep(int(leftover*1000))\n",
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```

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"\n",
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"        subdiv_b=4,\n",
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"        freq_b=freq_b,\n",
"        data_a=data_a,\n",
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Chapter 7: Emotional Shading (Optional)

Preliminary Concepts

February 9, 2025

7.1 Introduction

So far, we have focused on “technical” musical parameters: pitch (via a helical axis), timbre (brightness or harmonics), and even rhythm/polyrhythms. Chapter 7 explores an **emotional** or **affective** dimension, often referred to as **emotional shading**.

7.2 Linking Music and Emotion

Historical Attempts Composers and theorists (e.g., the Baroque *Doctrine of Affections*, or the *Romantic era* composers) have long believed that certain **keys**, **chords**, or **intervals** evoke specific moods (e.g., major chords for “happy,” minor chords for “sad”).

Modern Research Studies in *music psychology* or *affective computing* often associate *valence* (positive/negative) and *arousal* (high/low energy) with different musical features (tempo, mode, timbre).

7.3 Simple Approaches to Emotional Shading

Major vs. Minor Scales

A very common quick approach is:

- **Positive Mood** → **Major Scale** (e.g. C major).
- **Negative Mood** → **Minor Scale** (e.g. C natural minor).

This is simplistic, but can have a noticeable emotional coloring.

Dynamics or Tempo

Alternatively, we might increase volume or tempo for high arousal, and decrease them for low arousal, giving a sense of excitement vs. calm.

7.4 Potential Pitfalls

- **Subjectivity:** Not all listeners interpret major/minor as purely happy/sad. Cultural background and personal preference matter.
- **Over-Simplification:** True emotion in music can involve complex chord progressions, tension/resolution patterns, etc.

7.5 Conclusion

Emotional shading is a powerful but subjective extension to data sonification. Even a small shift—like toggling between major and minor or adjusting a timbre parameter to evoke brightness/darkness—can significantly alter the **emotional perception** of the same data. In the expanded discussion, we’ll introduce practical ways to incorporate a *mood axis* or *valence parameter* into the Helical Sonification System (HSS).

*Next: We explore deeper theoretical and practical considerations in the **Expanded Discussion** for Chapter 7.*

Chapter 7: Emotional Shading (Optional)

Expanded Discussion

February 9, 2025

7.1 Theoretical Foundations of Music-Emotion Links

Hevner’s Adjective Circle (1930s) A pioneering attempt to categorize musical emotion with clusters of adjectives (happy, sad, dreamy, vigorous, etc.), showing partial agreement among listeners for certain musical cues (mode, tempo, register).

Russell’s Circumplex Model (1980) Defines *valence* (positive to negative) and *arousal* (calm to excited) as orthogonal axes. Music can evoke or occupy a point in this 2D space.

7.2 Minimal Implementation in HSS

Valence Axis

We could map *valence* to a **major** vs. **minor** scale choice. A simple threshold approach:

$$\text{scale} = \begin{cases} \text{majorScale}, & \text{if } \text{valence} \geq 0, \\ \text{minorScale}, & \text{if } \text{valence} < 0. \end{cases}$$

Alternatively, we can do a smooth blend between major/minor chords if we want intermediate states.

Arousal Axis

- **Tempo Variation:** High arousal \rightarrow faster tempo, low arousal \rightarrow slower tempo.
- **Amplitude or Dynamics:** High arousal \rightarrow louder or more aggressive timbre, low arousal \rightarrow softer or gentler timbre.

7.3 Data Sources for Emotion

Explicit vs. Computed Mood One might *directly* ask a user for an “emotion rating” or use an *algorithmic guess* (e.g., sentiment analysis from text or physiological signals). The resulting *valence* or *arousal* value is then mapped to scale choice, tempo, etc.

7.4 Potential Drawbacks

- **Cultural Variation:** Major/minor connotations can vary across cultures, and not everyone perceives major as “happy.”
- **Overly Simplistic:** True emotional nuance might need advanced chord progressions, melodic lines, orchestration changes, etc.
- **Listener Expectation:** Some might find it too “gimmicky” if the same data toggles from major to minor without deeper harmonic context.

7.5 Example Approaches Beyond Major/Minor

Continuous Mode Blending Some software (e.g., spectral morphing) can morph chords or scale sets gradually as *valence* changes from negative to positive, giving a subtle shift in color.

Dynamic Expression Beyond scale toggles, we might use *legato/staccato* styles, *crescendo/diminuendo*, or *instrument selection* to represent emotional states.

7.6 Conclusion

Emotional shading is an *optional* but compelling layer for sonification, allowing data to be heard through a lens of “musical feeling.” In the accompanying notebook, we show a straightforward method: toggling a major vs. minor scale (valence) and adjusting tempo or amplitude (arousal). Experiment with these ideas to see if they *enhance* the interpretability or expressiveness of your data-based music.

Chapter 7: Emotional Shading and Psychoacoustic Triggers of Fear, Tension, and Excitement

February 9, 2025

7.1 Introduction

In previous chapters, we established a **Helical Sonification System (HSS)** and explored how pitch, timbre, rhythm, and polyrhythms can convey data in a *musically coherent* way. Now, we pivot to what might be the most intriguing domain of all: **emotional shading** and the deliberate evocation of *fear*, *tension*, *excitement*, or *sadness* via sound design. This chapter synthesizes research from *psychoacoustics*, *music psychology*, and *film/game sound design*, revealing the deep biological roots behind certain acoustic cues that reliably trigger emotional and physiological responses.

Key Themes in This Chapter:

- **Psychoacoustic triggers** of fear and tension (e.g., roughness, rapid pitch glides, dissonance).
- **Biological underpinnings**—why certain modulations or intervals mimic animal distress calls and startle our primal threat detection circuits.
- **Tempo, heart rate, and arousal**: how beats per minute can “rev up” or calm down a listener’s sympathetic nervous system.
- **Major vs. minor and beyond**: moving past the simplistic “happy vs. sad” mode equation to see how dissonance, chord progressions, and context shape emotional coloring.
- **Case studies** from film (Daleks, Jaws, Psycho) and **video games** (Silent Hill, Resident Evil, DOOM), illustrating how real sound designers exploit psychoacoustic insights.
- **Theoretical frameworks**: e.g., *BRECVEMA* and *GEMS* for mapping musical cues to emotional mechanisms.

We will see that “emotional shading” is far from a simple matter of “major = happy, minor = sad.” Indeed, it encompasses **roughness**, **nonlinear noise**, **rising pitch glides**,

rapid tempos that exceed one’s resting heart rate, **dissonant intervals**, and **culturally conditioned** associations. Whether you want to inspire a mild sense of unease or full-blown terror, these psychoacoustic tools lie at your disposal.

7.2 Psychoacoustic Elements Triggering Fear and Tension

7.2.1 Roughness and Nonlinear Noise

Animal Alarm Calls and Nonlinearities Research in psychoacoustics indicates that **rough, noisy, inharmonic** sounds instinctively trigger fear, partly because they mimic animal alarm or distress calls. When waveforms become chaotic (“nonlinear”), as in a scream, the human auditory system tends to flag them as threatening.

Studies (Blumstein *et al.*, 2010) found that horror film soundtracks systematically incorporate dissonant noise bursts and rough modulations. Our brains respond more strongly to these “non-musical” sidebands, activating amygdala-based fear circuits. This is an evolutionary adaptation: in nature, “chaotic” vocalizations generally signal high distress.

Amplitude Modulation in the 20–150 Hz Range Roughness arises when two or more partials beat against each other at a *modulation rate* roughly between 20–150 Hz. This rate produces a harsh, grating timbre that the brain associates with screams. Arnal *et al.* (2015) showed that human screams cluster in this roughness band, triggering faster detection and a stronger fear response. Sirens and car alarms exploit similar modulation rates.

7.2.2 Pitch Glides and “Alarm” Signals

Looming Sounds Sudden upward pitch sweeps (e.g., a rising siren) often feel tense or alarming. From a psychoacoustic standpoint, *looming* sounds that increase in frequency or intensity simulate an approaching threat. Neuhoff’s research found that listeners overestimate approaching sounds in time, heightening vigilance. Many emergency klaxons alternate pitch up and down, ensuring the ear never fully habituates.

Film and Siren Examples Iconic cases include the shrieking violin glissandos in *Psycho* (imitating a scream) or the cyclical up-down sweeps of an ambulance siren. Both combine pitch glides with roughness, hooking the brainstem reflex before conscious thought. Horror designers love repeating upward slides to keep the listener “on edge”—the impression of a sound rising (or intensifying) warns that something dreadful is imminent.

7.2.3 Amplitude Modulation and Beating Patterns

Fluttering, Jitter, and Screams A small amplitude modulation rate of $\sim 4\text{--}7$ Hz can convey trembling fear (like a shaky voice). As the rate increases to tens of Hz, tremolo turns into harsh roughness. A “fluttery” harshness is central to human screams or certain monster roars (e.g. Dead Space creatures).

Heartbeat Imitation Horror soundtracks occasionally include a thumping that speeds up, mimicking an anxious heartbeat. Human physiology resonates with such rhythmic cues: we subconsciously tense up, possibly raising *our* heart rate in sympathy.

7.3 Musical Tempo, Heart Rate, and Emotional Arousal

Entrainment and BPM Music near or above a listener’s resting heart rate ($\sim 60\text{--}100$ BPM) often boosts arousal. Faster beats can accelerate heart rate and breathing (Gomez and Danuser, 2007), whereas slower, “adagio” music relaxes. This phenomenon underpins why action scores or chase themes frequently range from 120 to 150 BPM.

Faster Tempo = Higher Arousal Studies confirm that even a “sad-sounding” minor piece, if played with a very brisk tempo, can shift the overall emotional impression from melancholy to excited. Similarly, a happy major melody played at a *very slow* tempo can feel somber or solemn.

7.3.1 Examples of Tempo Use in Horror/Action

- **Resident Evil Boss Battles:** Music accelerates from ~ 110 BPM to 130+ during intense fights, raising stress and heart rate.
- **DOOM (2016):** transitions from exploration (~ 100 BPM) to heavy combat sections (160+ BPM) for “adrenaline pumping” effect (Mick Gordon’s adaptive score).
- **Dead Space:** breathing, heart rate, and soundtrack tempo can all sync, ratcheting up together as panic intensifies.

7.4 Going Beyond “Major = Happy, Minor = Sad”

7.4.1 Cultural Conditioning and Mode Perception

Recent cross-cultural experiments (Smit *et al.*, 2022) show that “major/happy vs. minor/sad” is *not* universal. Rather, it’s culturally learned in Western contexts. Listeners from remote areas without Western musical exposure do not consistently map major to happy. Still, among Western-trained ears, major is often perceived as brighter or more uplifting, minor as darker or more introspective.

7.4.2 Dissonance, Chord Progressions, and “Scary Intervals”

Semitone Clashes, Tritones, Tone Clusters Certain intervals (minor seconds, tritones) yield strong dissonance, which correlates with tension or fear. Many horror soundtracks rely on cluster chords—*closely spaced* notes that produce beating or inharmonic partials—resulting in an unsettling, harsh effect (e.g., *Psycho* strings, *Insidious* violin clusters).

The “Devil’s Interval” (Tritone) This ΔF is exactly halfway through the octave, creating a sense of unresolved tension. It’s so historically reviled as “the devil in music” that medieval theory forbade it. Horror composers exploit that sense of disorientation (e.g. *Haloween* theme has ample use of ambiguous intervals, evoking dread).

Case Study: *Jaws* Motif Just two notes a semitone apart (E–F) hammered in a repeating, accelerating pattern forms one of the most legendary fear triggers in film scoring. The minor second interval is among the most dissonant intervals in Western ears, plus the motif’s rhythmic acceleration mimics a heartbeat speeding up.

7.5 Fear and Tension in Video Games: Additional Examples

While film scores are well-studied, **video games** often push these psychoacoustic tricks even further—thanks to interactivity and adaptive music engines.

7.5.1 Silent Hill Series (Akira Yamaoka)

- **Industrial Noise, Metallic Scrapes:** High-pitched sine waves, chaotic distortions, air raid sirens—direct parallels to real alarms that trigger primal alarm reflexes.
- **Low-Frequency Drones** with 60–90 BPM pulses occasionally modulate to match or *slightly exceed* the player’s heart rate, fueling subconscious anxiety.

7.5.2 Resident Evil Series

- **Save Room Themes:** Contrasting slow, minor-key piano (to calm after high tension).
- **Boss Battles:** Rapid tempo escalation and dissonant chord progressions (loaded with minor seconds/tritones). Jump-scare stingers (harsh orchestral chords) rely on the brainstem reflex.

7.5.3 Dead Space (2008) *A.L.I.V.E. System*

- Dynamically adjusts tempo, dissonance, and volume based on the player’s own heart rate/oxygen levels.
- Eerie, high-frequency glissandos akin to screams plus sub-bass throbs cause a constant sense of dread.
- 80–120 BPM pulses track in-game breathing and stress, leveraging *entrainment* to raise tension.

7.5.4 DOOM (2016) – Mick Gordon’s Heavy Metal Score

- Utilizes “choking” distortion and amplitude modulation in the 15–30 Hz band for a rough, “mechanical aggression” vibe.
- Combat sections jump from ~ 100 BPM to 160+, pushing arousal to the extreme—mirroring the frantic demon battles.

7.6 Practical Psychoacoustic Ranges for Horror & Action

Modulation Rates (Fear/Distress)

- **20–150 Hz amplitude modulation** (roughness band) \rightarrow triggers amygdala/fear (like screams, sirens).
- **30–40 Hz frequency modulation (growling)** \rightarrow used for monstrous roars or extreme distortion.
- **2–8 Hz amplitude tremolo** \rightarrow trembling effect, ghostly whispers (Silent Hill).

BPM Ranges for Emotional Impact

- ~ 50 –80 BPM: suspense, slow creeping dread.
- ~ 80 –110 BPM: building anxiety (Resident Evil’s tension loops).
- ~ 120 –160 BPM: action, chase sequences, heightened adrenaline (DOOM combat).
- > 160 BPM with dissonance: chaotic panic (extreme boss battles).

Dissonant Intervals and Effects

- **Minor 2nd (semitone)**: high tension (Jaws).
- **Tritone (aug. 4 / dim. 5)**: classic “Devil’s Interval,” strongly uneasy.
- **Minor 9th (C–Db up an octave)**: extreme dissonance (screechy violin clusters).

7.7 Frameworks for Mapping Music and Emotion

7.7.1 Juslin’s BRECVEMA Model

Patrik Juslin’s eight mechanisms explain how music induces emotion: **B**rain stem reflex, **R**hythmic entrainment, **E**valuative conditioning, **C**ontagion, **V**isual imagery, **E**pisodic memory, **M**usical expectancy, and **A**esthetic judgment.

- *Brain stem reflex*: sudden loud/dissonant chord triggers a reflexive startle (horror jump-scares).
- *Rhythmic entrainment*: fast BPM raises heart rate, fueling excitement/fear.
- *Evaluative conditioning*: repeated association of a motif (e.g. Jaws theme) with danger trains us to feel anxious whenever we hear it.

7.7.2 The Geneva Emotional Music Scale (GEMS)

Zentner’s GEMS identifies nine music-specific emotion clusters (e.g., *Tension*, *Wonder*, *Transcendence*). “Tension” is especially relevant for horror or action scores, capturing uneasy excitement distinct from everyday fear. GEMS acknowledges that we may feel “awe” or “thrill” even in a scary context—music can blur negative and positive affect into complex emotional states.

7.8 Case Studies, Summarizing Insights

7.8.1 Dalek Voices in *Doctor Who*

An iconic sci-fi instance: the ring-modulated “EX-TER-MI-NATE!” Dalek cry is harsh, monotonic, and inhuman. This droning timbre and amplitude sidebands (from a ~ 30 Hz carrier) create roughness akin to an alarm call.

7.8.2 *Jaws* Two-Note Motif

Two notes a semitone apart, hammered with increasing speed, represent unstoppable menace. The minor second interval is inherently dissonant; the rhythmic acceleration mimics a rising heartbeat, hooking both *brain stem reflex* and *entrainment*.

7.8.3 *Psycho* Shower Scene Strings

High-pitched violin clusters (close intervals) produce screeching roughness approximating a scream. Sudden, repeated bursts forcibly jolt the listener, epitomizing the “nonlinear call” principle in horror.

7.8.4 Video Game Horror: *Silent Hill*, *Resident Evil*, *Dead Space*

- **Silent Hill**: industrial siren textures, unpredictable noise bursts, mild heartbeat pulses.
- **Resident Evil**: dynamic shift from calm save rooms (slow minor piano) to boss fights with dissonant progression and fast tempo stingers.
- **Dead Space**: adaptive music matches player vitals, plus ear-piercing glissandos and sub-bass throbs for dread.

7.9 Conclusion: Designing Emotional Shading in Sonification

For those applying *Helical Sonification* or similar data-to-sound mapping, these psychoacoustic and emotional insights provide a **powerful extension**. By carefully layering:

- **Pitch glides or dissonance** to convey tension, shock,
- **Rough timbres** or 20–150 Hz amplitude modulation to elicit fear or attention,
- **Tempo and rhythms** that align with or exceed resting heart rate,
- **Mode or chord progressions** that avoid or embrace resolution,
- **Cultural associations** (e.g., major/minor in Western contexts) or repeated “leitmotifs” that condition the listener to expect dread,

we can shape data sonifications that do more than just illustrate trends in a cold, neutral sense. We can evoke real excitement or tension, tapping directly into the listener’s primal reflexes and emotional conditioning. This might be valuable for *immersive experiences* (e.g. educational VR games about natural disasters), *medical training simulations* (where stress is part of realism), or simply artistic *data-driven horror installations*.

Key Takeaways :

1. Human fear and tension responses to sound are deeply rooted in *roughness*, *rising pitch*, and *loud/dissonant bursts*.
2. Tempo can literally entrain one’s heart rate, making BPM a powerful lever for excitement or relaxation.
3. Cultural factors, learned associations, and chordal language (major vs. minor) color these primal responses, but do not wholly override them.
4. Filmmakers and game designers systematically exploit these psychoacoustic triggers (sirens, glissandos, clusters, sub-bass throbs) to intensify fear or excitement.
5. The *BRECVEMA* framework clarifies *how* these cues induce emotion (brain stem reflex, entrainment, etc.), while the *GEMS* scale clarifies *which emotions* they evoke (tension, awe, sadness, etc.).

All told, emotional shading is arguably the most dramatic dimension we can add to a sonification system—one that can make data “feel alive” or frightening in ways beyond pure intellectual comprehension.

References: (Include references from Blumstein *et al.*, Arnal *et al.*, Gomez & Danuser, Smit *et al.*, etc. as needed, per your preferred citation style, along with the additional references on video games and psychoacoustic frequency ranges.)

Chapter7_Emotion_Notebook.ipynb

```

%% md
# Chapter 7: Emotional Shading Notebook

This notebook shows a minimal approach:
- We interpret `valence` (negative/positive mood) to choose major or minor scale.
- We interpret `arousal` (0..something) to set note duration or tempo.

Then we generate a small data set, map it to pitch, and play them. We let you adjust sliders for
valence/arousal in real-time.
%%
import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd
import ipywidgets as widgets
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from IPython.display import display

print("Chapter 7 Emotional Shading code imports done.")
%% md
## Snap & Scale Logic
We reuse a snap-to-scale approach, define major vs. minor scales, and choose which to use based on
`valence`.
%%
def snap_to_scale(theta_value, scale_set, semitones_per_octave=12):
    octave_int = int(theta_value // semitones_per_octave)
    remainder = theta_value - octave_int * semitones_per_octave
    best_note = None
    best_diff = 9999
    for note in scale_set:
        diff = abs(note - remainder)
        if diff < best_diff:
            best_diff = diff
            best_note = note
    snapped_value = octave_int * semitones_per_octave + best_note
    return snapped_value

def semitone_to_freq(base_freq, semitone_offset):
    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))

# Define major and minor scale sets in semitones from a root
major_scale = [0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11]
minor_scale = [0, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10]

print("snap_to_scale + scale sets ready.")
%% md
## Emotional Mapping
- If `valence` >= 0, use `major_scale`.
- Otherwise, use `minor_scale`.
- If `arousal` is bigger, we do shorter note duration (faster tempo). If `arousal` is 0, we do
longer notes (slow tempo).
%%
@widgets.interact(valence=(-1.0,1.0,0.1), arousal=(0.0,5.0,0.5), base_freq=(110,440,10))
def emotional_sonification(valence=0.0, arousal=2.0, base_freq=220):
    """
    - If valence >= 0, pick major scale; else minor.
    - Arousal => (0 => slow) up to (5 => quite fast)
    """
    scale = major_scale if valence >= 0 else minor_scale
    # We'll generate a small data set
    data = np.linspace(0, 5, 8) # 8 points
    alpha = 4.0 # pitch scale factor

    # snap each data point
    pitch_list = []
    for val in data:
        raw_semitone = alpha * val
        snapped = snap_to_scale(raw_semitone, scale)
        pitch_list.append(snapped)

    # note duration depends on arousal => more arousal => shorter
    # let's define note_dur = 0.6 - 0.1*arousal, clamped to min 0.1
    note_dur = max(0.6 - 0.1*arousal, 0.1)

    samplerate = 44100
    for ps in pitch_list:
        freq = semitone_to_freq(base_freq, ps)
        t = np.linspace(0, note_dur, int(samplerate*note_dur), endpoint=False)

```

```
    wave = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)
    sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)
    sd.wait()

# quick visualization
plt.figure(figsize=(6,3))
plt.plot(data, 'bo--', label='Data')
plt.plot(pitch_list, 'ro-', label='PitchSemitones')
plt.title(f"valence={valence}, arousal={arousal}, scale={'Major' if valence>=0 else 'Minor'}\n"
\
        f"note_dur={note_dur:.2f} s, base_freq={base_freq}")
plt.legend()
plt.show()

print(f"Used {'Major' if valence>=0 else 'Minor'} Scale, note_dur={note_dur:.2f}s")
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    "    remainder = theta_value -
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    "    best_diff = 9999\n",
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    "        if diff < best_diff:\n",
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    "            best_note = note\n",
    "    snapped_value = octave_int * semitones_per_octave +
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    "    return snapped_value\n",
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"    data = np.linspace(0, 5, 8) # 8 points\\n",
"    alpha = 4.0 # pitch scale factor\\n",
"\\n",
"    # snap each data point\\n",
"    pitch_list = []\\n",
"    for val in data:\\n",
"        raw_semitone = alpha * val\\n",
"        snapped = snap_to_scale(raw_semitone, scale)\\n",
"        pitch_list.append(snapped)\\n",
"\\n",
"    # note duration depends on arousal => more arousal =>
shorter\\n",
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0.1\\n",
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"        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)\\n",
"        sd.wait()\\n",

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Chapter 8: Advanced Topics and Scaling Up

Preliminary Concepts

February 9, 2025

8.1 Introduction

So far, we have a robust **Helical Sonification System (HSS)** that handles:

- Pitch (via a helical or spiral mapping),
- Timbre (one-dimensional brightness or harmonic content),
- Rhythm and Polyrhythms (time structuring),
- Emotional Shading (fear, excitement, etc. in Chapter 7).

In Chapter 8, we move beyond “single-stream or small-scale” sonifications and discuss **advanced applications** and **scaling up**. This involves:

- Multi-voice or multi-layered sonification (assigning multiple instruments or channels to different data dimensions),
- Handling large or high-dimensional data (e.g., time-series with numerous variables),
- Potential for real-time or interactive setups, such as **VR** or **data gloves** that let users modulate parameters on the fly.

Goals in This Chapter

1. Introduce multi-voice architecture: how to split data into separate parts (pitch, timbre, second instrument, polyrhythm, etc.).
2. Outline strategies for large data sets: chunking, layering, or data reduction (PCA or clustering).
3. Touch on real-time implementations: how to handle continuous user input or live data updates.

These concepts tie together everything we’ve learned, aiming for truly immersive and powerful sonification experiences.

We’ll keep the overview concise here; the next “Expanded Discussion” will cover each point with examples, references, and potential pitfalls.

Chapter 8: Advanced Topics and Scaling Up

Expanded Discussion

February 9, 2025

8.1 Multi-Voice Sonification

8.1.1 Why Multiple Voices?

When data sets grow more complex (e.g., multiple variables, high-dimensional time-series), encoding everything in a *single pitch-timbre axis* quickly becomes overwhelming. Splitting the data across two or more “voices” or instruments can:

- Keep each channel simpler, reducing “sonic overload,”
- Let listeners hear separate streams as distinct musical lines,
- Allow more nuanced expression or interplay (like call-and-response or polyrhythms).

8.1.2 Assigning Variables to Voices

Suppose you have four variables (v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4). You might:

- Map v_1 to pitch + timbre in **Voice A** (like we did in earlier examples),
- Map v_2 to pitch + brightness in **Voice B**, possibly an octave higher,
- Keep v_3, v_4 for polyrhythmic triggers or amplitude modulation in those voices.

Alternatively, *Voice A* runs a 3-subdivision pattern, *Voice B* does 4-subdivision, yielding a polyrhythm plus melodic interplay.

8.1.3 Pitfalls and Tips

- **Cognitive Load:** Each additional voice is another stream the listener has to disentangle. Limit to 2–4 distinct voices unless you have very advanced users or use simpler pitch mappings.
- **Register Separation:** Placing voices in distinct pitch ranges (e.g., *Voice A* in a lower register, *Voice B* higher) helps the ear separate them.
- **Instrument/Timbre Choice:** E.g., one voice with a string timbre, another with a bell-like or brass timbre, to avoid blending confusion.

8.2 Approaches for Large Data Sets

8.2.1 Chunking or Time-Slicing

If you have a time-series of thousands of points, playing them all in quick succession can create a “vacuum cleaner” sound. Instead:

- Break data into smaller *windows* or *chunks*,
- Summarize each chunk (mean, median, or max-min range) before mapping to pitch,
- Possibly convert a big data set into multiple shorter “movements” in the sonification.

8.2.2 Dimensionality Reduction (PCA, Clustering)

For high-dimensional data (e.g. 10+ variables):

- **Principal Component Analysis (PCA)** can compress the data into a few principal axes, each mapped to a different sonic dimension (pitch, timbre, polyrhythm).
- **Clustering** can group data points into categories, each category assigned to a different instrument or chord.

This ensures you *focus* on core data patterns instead of trying to blindly sonify each dimension.

8.2.3 Data Overlays and Layering

Another tactic is layering multiple “sonic textures” on top:

- **Base Layer:** fundamental pitch line representing the main trend,
- **Overlay Layer:** short rhythmic motifs when an event or threshold is crossed,
- **Ambient Drone:** representing global average or standard deviation as a slowly shifting chord/timbre.

This “soundscape” approach can be more immersive but requires careful volume balancing.

8.3 Real-Time and Interactive Implementations

8.3.1 Why Real-Time?

Many advanced use-cases want immediate feedback:

- Scientific labs monitoring live sensor data (e.g. *EEG* or *seismographs*),
- Interactive exhibits where users “scrub” through data or manipulate parameters,
- Virtual/augmented reality experiences letting participants “move” in a data space and hear changes on the fly.

8.3.2 Technical Considerations

- **Latency:** Generating and playing sounds with minimal delay (avoid your engine taking 500 ms or more to respond).
- **Buffering Strategy:** Possibly use small audio buffers for a near-immediate reaction, at the cost of more CPU usage.
- **Control Interfaces:** e.g. *MIDI controllers*, *Leap Motion* sensors, VR hand tracking, etc. Provide intuitive parameter knobs or sliders for pitch scale, timbre brightness, rhythmic density, etc.

8.3.3 Example: VR “Data Playground”

One might build a VR environment where each axis in 3D space (or 4D, if you incorporate polyrhythmic time) corresponds to some data dimension. As users walk or “fly” through the space, pitch lines, timbres, and rhythms change accordingly. This merges data exploration with spatial movement and immediate sonic feedback, potentially allowing quick pattern recognition.

8.4 Putting It All Together: Potential Pitfalls

- **Over-Complex Sound:** Multi-voice + polyrhythm + real-time manipulations can become a cacophony. Provide user toggles or a “mute voice” feature.
- **Performance Bottlenecks:** Real-time audio with big data. Preprocessing or partial caching might be needed if the data is massive.
- **User Training:** Not everyone can parse multi-layered sonification instantly. Offer layered learning or tutorials in a data exhibit or VR environment.

8.5 Conclusion

Chapter 8 expands our Helical Sonification System to handle **multiple voices**, **large data sets**, and **real-time interactivity**. These techniques:

- allow deeper, more complex data representations,
- enable dynamic, user-driven experiences (in VR or live data scenarios),
- and illustrate how musical sonification can scale from a single melodic line to an entire “soundscape” that conveys many aspects of the data in parallel.

In the next section (code examples), we provide a minimal multi-voice demonstration plus some tips for chunking large data. Real-time interactive examples are also shown to spark ideas about how to incorporate your own data streams or user inputs.

Chapter8_Advanced_Notebook.ipynb

```

%% md
# Chapter 8: Advanced Topics and Scaling Up (Notebook)

In this notebook, we:
1. Demonstrate multi-voice sonification (two separate data arrays, each with pitch + timbre in different registers).
2. Show a chunking approach for large data, summarizing in smaller blocks before mapping.
3. Provide an interactive cell using sliders for user adjustments, simulating partial real-time or live re-sonification.
%%
import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd
import ipywidgets as widgets
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
print("Chapter 8 advanced notebook imports loaded.")
%% md
## 1) Multi-Voice Sonification
We'll define two functions: one for voice A, one for voice B. Each voice gets data mapped to pitch & timbre (like in Chapter 3-4). We'll keep them in different pitch registers or timbre offsets so they don't overlap too much.
%%
# A quick scale snapping approach, reusing code from prior chapters.
def snap_to_scale(theta_value, scale_set=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], semitones_per_octave=12):
    octave_int = int(theta_value // semitones_per_octave)
    remainder = theta_value - octave_int*semitones_per_octave
    best_note = None
    best_diff = 9999
    for note in scale_set:
        diff = abs(note - remainder)
        if diff < best_diff:
            best_diff = diff
            best_note = note
    return octave_int*semitones_per_octave + best_note

def semitone_to_freq(base_freq, semitone_offset):
    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))

def play_two_voice(
    dataA, dataB,
    alphaA=4.0, alphaB=4.0,
    baseA=220.0, baseB=440.0,
    note_dur=0.3, scaleA=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], scaleB=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11]
):
    """
    dataA -> voice A (pitch/timbre?), dataB -> voice B.
    alphaA/alphaB scale factors for pitch.
    baseA/baseB: base frequencies for each voice's reference.
    We'll just do them in sequence for demonstration.
    """
    samplerate = 44100

    # Snap dataA -> pitchA
    pitchA = []
    for val in dataA:
        raw_semA = alphaA*val
        snappedA = snap_to_scale(raw_semA, scaleA)
        pitchA.append(snappedA)

    # Snap dataB -> pitchB
    pitchB = []
    for val in dataB:
        raw_semB = alphaB*val
        snappedB = snap_to_scale(raw_semB, scaleB)
        pitchB.append(snappedB)

    # We'll alternate playing a note from A, then a note from B, etc.
    # In real multi-voice, we might want concurrency or layering.
    # For simplicity, let's do a quick A->B->A->B...

    max_len = max(len(pitchA), len(pitchB))
    indexA = 0
    indexB = 0

    while indexA < len(pitchA) or indexB < len(pitchB):
        # Play next A note if available
        if indexA < len(pitchA):

```

```

        freqA = semitone_to_freq(baseA, pitchA[indexA])
        waveA = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freqA * np.linspace(0, note_dur,
int(samplerate*note_dur), endpoint=False))
        sd.play(waveA, samplerate=samplerate)
        sd.wait()
        indexA += 1

    # Then play next B note if available
    if indexB < len(pitchB):
        freqB = semitone_to_freq(baseB, pitchB[indexB])
        waveB = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freqB * np.linspace(0, note_dur,
int(samplerate*note_dur), endpoint=False))
        sd.play(waveB, samplerate=samplerate)
        sd.wait()
        indexB += 1

    print("Two-voice playback done.")

print("play_two_voice function ready.")
### md
### Quick Test
We'll define two small arrays (like `[0,1,2,3]` and `[2,4,5,1]`) and see them played in an A->B->A->B sequence.
###
dataA = [0,1,2,3]
dataB = [2,4,5,1]
play_two_voice(dataA, dataB, alphaA=4.0, alphaB=4.0,
                baseA=220.0, baseB=440.0, note_dur=0.3)
### md
## 2) Handling Larger Data via Chunking
We'll demonstrate a simple chunking approach: if we have, say, 100 points, we'll divide them into
10 chunks of 10 points each, taking the mean of each chunk to create 10 data points for playback.
###
def chunk_data(data, chunk_size=10, method='mean'):
    """
    Splits 'data' into blocks of 'chunk_size' and returns one value per chunk.
    method can be 'mean', 'max', etc.
    """
    out = []
    length = len(data)
    for i in range(0, length, chunk_size):
        block = data[i:i+chunk_size]
        if method=='mean':
            val = np.mean(block)
        elif method=='max':
            val = np.max(block)
        else:
            val = np.mean(block) # default
        out.append(val)
    return out

print("chunk_data function ready.")
### md
### Example: 100 random points in range [0..5], chunked into 10 blocks
###
long_dataA = np.random.uniform(0, 5, 100)
long_dataB = np.random.uniform(0, 5, 100)

chunkedA = chunk_data(long_dataA, chunk_size=10, method='mean')
chunkedB = chunk_data(long_dataB, chunk_size=10, method='mean')

print("Chunked A:", chunkedA)
print("Chunked B:", chunkedB)

# Now we can feed these chunked arrays into play two voice.
play_two_voice(chunkedA, chunkedB, alphaA=4.0, alphaB=5.0,
                baseA=220.0, baseB=330.0, note_dur=0.3)
print("Done with chunked data playback.")
### md
## 3) A Simple Interactive Cell (Parameters for Multi-Voice)
We'll let you adjust:
- `alphaA` (scale factor for dataA pitch)
- `alphaB` (scale factor for dataB pitch)
- `note_dur`
- `method` for chunking (mean or max)
Then we chunk a random dataset each time you change sliders and do a new multi-voice playback.
###
from ipywidgets import interact, FloatSlider, Dropdown

@interact(
    alphaA=(1.0, 8.0, 1.0),

```

```

alphaB=(1.0, 8.0, 1.0),
note_dur=(0.1, 1.0, 0.1),
method=Dropdown(options=['mean','max'], value='mean', description='ChunkMethod')
)
def multi_voice_interactive(alphaA=4.0, alphaB=5.0, note_dur=0.3, method='mean'):
    # regenerate random data each time
    bigA = np.random.uniform(0, 5, 60)
    bigB = np.random.uniform(0, 5, 60)
    chunkedA = chunk_data(bigA, chunk_size=10, method=method)
    chunkedB = chunk_data(bigB, chunk_size=10, method=method)

    print("Playing with alphaA=", alphaA, "alphaB=", alphaB,
          "note_dur=", note_dur, "method=", method)

    play_two_voice(
        chunkedA, chunkedB,
        alphaA=alphaA, alphaB=alphaB,
        baseA=220.0, baseB=330.0,
        note_dur=note_dur
    )
    print("Interaction done.")
# %%

```



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        "3. Provide an interactive cell using sliders for user adjustments, simulating partial real-time or live re-sonification."
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    "    octave_int = int(theta_value // semitones_per_octave)\n",
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    remainder = theta_value -
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    best_diff = 9999\n",
    for note in scale_set:\n",
        diff = abs(note - remainder)\n",
        if diff < best_diff:\n",
            best_diff = diff\n",
            best_note = note\n",
    return octave_int*semitones_per_octave + best_note\n",
\n",
def semitone_to_freq(base_freq, semitone_offset):\n",
    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))\n",
\n",
def play_two_voice(\n",
    dataA, dataB,\n",
    alphaA=4.0, alphaB=4.0,\n",
    baseA=220.0, baseB=440.0,\n",
    note_dur=0.3, scaleA=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11],
scaleB=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11]\n",
    ):\n",
    \""\n",
    dataA -> voice A (pitch/timbre?), dataB -> voice B.\n",
    alphaA/alphaB scale factors for pitch.\n",
    baseA/baseB: base frequencies for each voice's
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    We'll just do them in sequence for demonstration.\n",
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```

```

"    # Snap dataA -> pitchA\n",
"    pitchA = []\n",
"    for val in dataA:\n",
"        raw_semA = alphaA*val\n",
"        snappedA = snap_to_scale(raw_semA, scaleA)\n",
"        pitchA.append(snappedA)\n",
"\n",
"    # Snap dataB -> pitchB\n",
"    pitchB = []\n",
"    for val in dataB:\n",
"        raw_semB = alphaB*val\n",
"        snappedB = snap_to_scale(raw_semB, scaleB)\n",
"        pitchB.append(snappedB)\n",
"\n",
"    # We'll alternate playing a note from A, then a note from
B, etc.\n",
"    # In real multi-voice, we might want concurrency or
layering.\n",
"    # For simplicity, let's do a quick A->B->A->B...\n",
"\n",
"    max_len = max(len(pitchA), len(pitchB))\n",
"    indexA = 0\n",
"    indexB = 0\n",
"\n",
"    while indexA < len(pitchA) or indexB < len(pitchB):\n",
"        # Play next A note if available\n",
"        if indexA < len(pitchA):\n",
"            freqA = semitone_to_freq(baseA, pitchA[indexA])\n",

```

```

        waveA = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freqA *
np.linspace(0, note_dur, int(samplerate*note_dur),
endpoint=False))\n",
        sd.play(waveA, samplerate=samplerate)\n",
        sd.wait()\n",
        indexA += 1\n",
\n",
        # Then play next B note if available\n",
        if indexB < len(pitchB):\n",
            freqB = semitone_to_freq(baseB, pitchB[indexB])\n",
            waveB = 0.3 * np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freqB *
np.linspace(0, note_dur, int(samplerate*note_dur),
endpoint=False))\n",
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            sd.wait()\n",
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    "        method can be 'mean', 'max', etc.\n",
    "    \"\"\"\n",
    "    out = []\n",
    "    length = len(data)\n",
    "    for i in range(0, length, chunk_size):\n",
    "        block = data[i:i+chunk_size]\n",
    "        if method=='mean':\n",
    "            val = np.mean(block)\n",
    "        elif method=='max':\n",
    "            val = np.max(block)\n",
    "        else:\n",
    "            val = np.mean(block) # default\n",
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method='mean')\n",

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    "print(\"Chunked A:\", chunkedA)\n",
    "print(\"Chunked B:\", chunkedB)\n",
    "\n",

    "# Now we can feed these chunked arrays into play_two_voice.\n",
    "play_two_voice(chunkedA, chunkedB, alphaA=4.0, alphaB=5.0,\n",
    "
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    "- `alphaB` (scale factor for dataB pitch)\n",
    "- `note_dur`\n",
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note_dur=0.3, method='mean'):\n",
  "    # regenerate random data each time\n",

```

```

        "    bigA = np.random.uniform(0, 5, 60)\n",
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        "    chunkedA = chunk_data(bigA, chunk_size=10,\nmethod=method)\n",
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        "\n",
        "    play_two_voice(\n",
        "        chunkedA, chunkedB,\n",
        "        alphaA=alphaA, alphaB=alphaB,\n",
        "        baseA=220.0, baseB=330.0,\n",
        "        note_dur=note_dur\n",
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Chapter 9: Case Studies & Future Directions

Preliminary Concepts

February 9, 2025

9.1 Introduction

Having established a robust **Helical Sonification System (HSS)**, along with emotional shading, multi-voice strategies, and other advanced techniques, we now turn to *practical case studies* and *future directions*. Chapter 9 highlights real-world examples, bridging the gap between theoretical frameworks and concrete implementations.

Case Study Examples

- Well-known physics or mathematical problems (the brachistochrone, planetary orbits, wave equations).
- Statistical data sets (stock market trends, population growth, climate data).
- Complex shapes (fractals, parametric curves) that can benefit from multi-axis or polyrhythmic approaches.

Future Directions

We also outline emerging topics, such as:

- Integration with **machine learning** or **AI-driven** composition,
- **VR/AR** immersive sonification, letting users “walk” through data,
- More advanced emotional or polyrhythmic expansions to handle high-dimensional or time-evolving data.

We keep this preview short—next, we dive deeper into each case and speculate on what the future might hold for data-driven music and interactive sonification.

Chapter 9: Case Studies & Future Directions

Expanded Discussion

February 10, 2025

9.1 Deep-Dive Case Studies

9.1.1 Brachistochrone Problem: Sonifying a Classic Physics Curve

Background The brachistochrone is the curve of quickest descent under uniform gravity—famously solved by Bernoulli, Newton, and Leibniz. It’s known to be a cycloid. Even today, it’s a shining example of how nontrivial the “fastest path” can be.

Sonification Approach

- **X-axis** (parametric time) → note triggers or rhythmic steps,
- **Y-value** of the cycloid → pitch, snapped to a musical scale,
- **Optional Timbre** dimension: curvature or slope of the curve can modulate brightness (steeper slope = brighter timbre).

Users can “hear” how the cycloid yields a swifter travel time compared to a simple parabola or other guesses. The pitch changes more swiftly in the cycloid case, reflecting its faster arrival.

9.1.2 Planetary Orbits & Orbital Resonances

In orbital mechanics, planets and moons often form resonance relationships (e.g. a 2:3 ratio in orbital periods). We can assign each body a voice that *pulses* or *triggers* when it completes a fraction of an orbit. The resulting polyrhythmic interplay reveals any near-integer resonances:

- **Voice A** = Jupiter’s orbital phase,
- **Voice B** = Saturn’s orbital phase,
- When they sync up (once every few years), the pulses align or create a simpler ratio polyrhythm, which is audible as a moment of “consonance.”

Such an approach elegantly demonstrates resonance phenomena that might otherwise remain abstract in numeric ephemerides.

9.1.3 Statistical or Real-World Data: Climate Trends, Stocks, *etc.*

Climate Example Take global temperature anomalies over 150 years. Using chunking (Chapter 8) plus helical pitch mapping, we can hear long-term warming trends as a rising pitch baseline, with short-term cyclical variations forming melodic oscillations.

Stock Market Example Mapping daily stock closes or volume to pitch changes or timbre can highlight extreme volatility spikes. Some traders even rely on “ear” recognition of chart patterns, hearing repeated fluctuations or meltdown-like crashes as sudden dissonant bursts or faster polyrhythms.

9.2 Future Directions for Sonification Systems

9.2.1 Machine Learning and AI-Driven Composition

As **ML** and **generative AI** models become more sophisticated, we might see:

- Automated mapping strategies that adapt to user feedback (an AI deciding how best to encode certain variables),
- Real-time generation of *musical themes* for different data clusters,
- Use of large language models to parse *semantic* data relationships, then propose emotive chord progressions or timbral shifts that highlight key patterns.

This synergy could yield extremely adaptive and personalized sonifications.

9.2.2 VR/AR Immersive Data Exploration

- **Spatial Audio**: integrating 3D positioning so different data streams come from distinct directions, or revolve around the user.
- **Gesture Control**: letting the user “grab” a curve and drag it around, hearing pitch/timbre changes in real time, or scrubbing through parametric surfaces.
- **Polyrhythmic Animations**: walking physically in VR, while each footstep triggers data-driven pulses or melodic fragments that correspond to the user’s location in the data space.

Such immersive experiences may revolutionize how we “analyze” big data—imagine hearing + seeing a 10D dataset by literally stepping through principal components in VR.

9.2.3 Emotional Axes + Psychophysiological Feedback

Chapter 7 introduced emotional shading. We might take it further:

- **Biofeedback loops:** track the user’s heart rate or galvanic skin response, adjusting the sonification’s tension/dissonance in real time. A high stress reading might dial back the complexity or volume.
- **Therapeutic or meditative sonification:** using gentle pitch spirals, slow polyrhythms, or major/minor manipulations to help users calm down or reflect on data in a more emotional way.

Such expansions highlight the *affective* dimension as more than just a novelty, becoming a genuine user-centered design approach.

9.3 Potential Pitfalls & Challenges

9.3.1 Overly Complex “Sound Worlds”

A common challenge: as we add more data variables, emotional shading, multi-voice layering, the sonic environment can become dense or chaotic. We risk losing clarity:

- **User Training** is crucial. Provide interactive tutorials or incremental layering.
- **Option to Mute or Isolate** voices. For instance, let the user toggle “timbre voice off” if it’s overshadowing pitch voice.

9.3.2 Hardware and Latency Constraints

Real-time VR or interactive setups might demand sub-50 ms latency to feel responsive. Large data sets can hamper performance. Solutions involve:

- Buffering or partial precomputation,
- Using specialized audio frameworks or libraries (Csound, Wwise, FMOD) that handle dynamic music well,
- Possibly offloading heavy data transforms to a GPU or HPC server.

9.4 Conclusion

Chapter 9 demonstrates how the *Helical Sonification System* expands to real-world complexities:

- We can *case-study* classical math/physics (brachistochrone, orbits) or large modern data sets (climate, stocks).

- We can push into *future directions* like AI-based composition, VR-based data exploration, or biofeedback-driven emotional shading.

Hence, the journey from a single pitch function to a *multi-voice, real-time emotional sonification environment* is well within reach. In the following code examples, we'll illustrate at least one or two “case study” prototypes (e.g., brachistochrone, fractal data) and some forward-looking expansions.

chapter9_cases_notebook.ipynb

```

%% md
# Chapter 9: Case Studies & Future Directions (Notebook)

We'll:
1. Demonstrate a Brachistochrone curve example, mapping its (x,y) param to pitch/timbre.
2. Show how to do a small fractal or param.
3. Outline a mock "AI approach" concept or a VR concept (we won't do full VR here, but talk about a function that might generate relevant data).
%%
import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd
import ipywidgets as widgets
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
print("Chapter 9 Case Studies imports loaded.")
%% md
## 1) Brachistochrone Parametric Sonification
Recall that the brachistochrone is typically parameterized by cycloid equations:
\[
x(\theta) = r(\theta - \sin\theta), \quad y(\theta) = r(1 - \cos\theta).
\]
We'll pick a range for  $\theta$  (e.g.  $0..2\pi$ ). Then map  $y(\theta)$  to pitch, maybe  $x(\theta)$  to a secondary dimension (like timbre). We'll do a short code snippet to illustrate.
%%
# Simple scale snapping
def snap_to_scale(value, scale=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], semis=12):
    octave = int(value // semis)
    rem = value - octave*semis
    best = None
    best_diff = 9999
    for s in scale:
        diff = abs(s - rem)
        if diff < best_diff:
            best_diff = diff
            best = s
    return octave*semis + best

def semitone_to_freq(base, offset):
    return base*(2.0**(offset/12.0))

def brachistochrone_sonify(r=1.0, theta_max=2*np.pi, steps=20, alpha_y=10.0, alpha_x=2.0,
base_freq=220.0, note_dur=0.3):
    """
    We'll param from theta=0..theta max.
    Map y->pitch, x->some timbre offset (or brightness) for example.
    We'll do a simple approach: we play a note at each step.
    """
    thetas = np.linspace(0, theta_max, steps)
    xvals = r*(thetas - np.sin(thetas))
    yvals = r*(1.0 - np.cos(thetas))

    # We'll map y to pitch.
    # alpha_y scales y.
    # x might scale amplitude of second harmonic.
    samplerate=44100

    for i in range(steps):
        pitch_val = alpha_y*yvals[i]
        snapped = snap_to_scale(pitch_val)
        freq = semitone_to_freq(base_freq, snapped)

        x_timbre = alpha_x*xvals[i]
        # let's interpret x_timbre as amplitude of a second harmonic.
        # negative x won't matter much, we'll just do abs.
        brightness = abs(x_timbre)*0.1
        if brightness>1.0:
            brightness=1.0

        t = np.linspace(0, note_dur, int(samplerate*note_dur), endpoint=False)
        fundamental = 0.3*np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)
        second_harm = 0.3*brightness*np.sin(2.0*np.pi*(2*freq)*t)
        wave = fundamental+second_harm

        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)
        sd.wait()

    print("Brachistochrone sonification done.")

```

```

# Quick plot
plt.figure(figsize=(5,4))
plt.plot(xvals, yvals, 'bo-', label='Brachistochrone')
plt.title("Brachistochrone (r={:.2f})".format(r))
plt.xlabel("x")
plt.ylabel("y")
plt.legend()
plt.show()

print("brachistochrone_sonify function ready.")
""" md
### Quick Test with default values
"""
brachistochrone_sonify(r=1.0, theta_max=2*np.pi, steps=12, alpha_y=10.0, alpha_x=2.0,
base_freq=220.0, note_dur=0.3)
""" md
## 2) Fractal / Parametric Example
We'll do a small param (like a Lissajous or a logistic map) just to show how you might map 2D data
to pitch & timbre again. We'll keep it short.
"""
def logistic_map_sonify(r=3.5, x0=0.2, steps=30, alpha=12.0, base_freq=220.0, note_dur=0.2):
    """
    The logistic map:  $x_{n+1} = r \cdot x_n \cdot (1 - x_n)$ ,  $0 < x < 1$ .
    We'll track x and sonify.
    """
    samplerate=44100
    x = x0
    out = []
    for i in range(steps):
        out.append(x)
        x = r*x*(1-x)

    # Each value in [0..1], we can scale it up.
    for val in out:
        pitch_val = alpha*val # ~ 0..alpha
        semitones = snap_to_scale(pitch_val)
        freq = semitone_to_freq(base_freq, semitones)

        # simple wave
        t = np.linspace(0, note_dur, int(samplerate*note_dur), endpoint=False)
        wave = 0.3*np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)
        sd.wait()

    print("Logistic map sonification done.")

    # quick plot
    plt.figure(figsize=(5,4))
    plt.plot(out, 'r.-')
    plt.title(f"Logistic map, r={r}")
    plt.xlabel("Step")
    plt.ylabel("x")
    plt.show()

print("logistic_map_sonify ready.")
""" md
### Quick Test
We'll choose `r=3.8` or so to get some chaotic behavior.
"""
logistic_map_sonify(r=3.8, x0=0.2, steps=20, alpha=12.0, base_freq=220.0, note_dur=0.2)
""" md
## 3) Future Direction Snippet: AI or VR Concept
We won't fully implement VR or AI here, but let's show how you *might* generate an AI-based chord
progression for certain data clusters, as a minimal demonstration.
"""
def fake_ai_chord_mapping(data_points, cluster_labels):
    """
    Pretend we have an ML model that clusters data into groups.
    For each cluster, we define a chord or scale.
    We'll just do something silly: cluster=0 -> C major chord, cluster=1 -> F minor chord, etc.
    Then we play short chord stabs in sequence.
    """
    samplerate=44100
    note_dur = 0.4

    chord_map = {
        0: [0,4,7], # C major triad (C-E-G in semitones from root)
        1: [0,3,7], # C minor triad
        2: [0,5,9], # maybe a sus chord or something
    }
    base_freq = 220.0

```

```

# ensure cluster_labels match data_points in length.
for i, val in enumerate(data_points):
    c = cluster_labels[i]
    chord_intervals = chord_map.get(c, [0,4,7])
    # let's pick a root offset from val in semitones
    root_offset = int(val*5) # scale up data a bit
    wavesum = 0
    t = np.linspace(0, note_dur, int(samplerate*note_dur), endpoint=False)
    for interval in chord_intervals:
        semitone = root_offset + interval
        freq = base_freq*(2**(semitone/12))
        wavesum += 0.2*np.sin(2*np.pi*freq*t)
    sd.play(wavesum, samplerate=samplerate)
    sd.wait()

print("Fake AI chord mapping done.")

print("fake_ai_chord_mapping ready.")
### md
### Minimal Demo
We'll craft some random data points from 0..5, a random set of cluster labels 0..2, and then hear
the chord stabs in sequence.
###
data_points = np.random.uniform(0,5,10)
cluster_labels = np.random.randint(0,3,size=10)
print("Data:", data_points)
print("Clusters:", cluster_labels)
fake_ai_chord_mapping(data_points, cluster_labels)
### md
In a real system, these clusters might come from e.g. PCA + K-means on a high-dimensional dataset,
and we'd pick chord sets accordingly, or generate them with an AI composition model. The final code
would be far more sophisticated, but this snippet shows how we can embed a *fake ML-driven mapping*
into our sonification pipeline.

## Conclusion
This Chapter 9 notebook underscores how *case studies* (brachistochrone, logistic map) can reveal
the power of Helical Sonification or multi-axis mapping, and how *future expansions* (AI chord
decisions, VR) might further revolutionize how we experience data.

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"\\]\n",

"We'll pick a range for \\(\\theta\\) (e.g. $0..2\\pi$). Then map $y(\\theta)$ to pitch, maybe $x(\\theta)$ to a secondary dimension (like timbre). We'll do a short code snippet to illustrate."

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    "    rem = value - octave*semis\n",
    "    best = None\n",
    "    best_diff = 9999\n",
    "    for s in scale:\n",
    "        diff = abs(s - rem)\n",
    "        if diff<best_diff:\n",
    "            best_diff = diff\n",
    "            best = s\n",
    "    return octave*semis + best\n",
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    "    return base*(2.0**(offset/12.0))\n",
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    "    \"\"\"\n",
    "    We'll param from theta=0..theta_max.\n",
    "    Map y->pitch, x->some timbre offset (or brightness) for\nexample.\n",
    "    We'll do a simple approach: we play a note at each\nstep.\n",
    "    \"\"\"\n",
    "    thetas = np.linspace(0, theta_max, steps)\n",
    "    xvals = r*(thetas - np.sin(thetas))\n",
    "    yvals = r*(1.0 - np.cos(thetas))\n",
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```

"    # We'll map y to pitch.\n",
"    # alpha_y scales y.\n",
"    # x might scale amplitude of second harmonic.\n",
"    samplerate=44100\n",
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"    for i in range(steps):\n",
"        pitch_val = alpha_y*yvals[i]\n",
"        snapped = snap_to_scale(pitch_val)\n",
"        freq = semitone_to_freq(base_freq, snapped)\n",
"\n",
"        x_timbre = alpha_x*xvals[i]\n",
"        # let's interpret x_timbre as amplitude of a second
harmonic.\n",
"        # negative x won't matter much, we'll just do abs.\n",
"        brightness = abs(x_timbre)*0.1\n",
"        if brightness>1.0:\n",
"            brightness=1.0\n",
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"        t = np.linspace(0, note_dur, int(samplerate*note_dur),
endpoint=False)\n",
"        fundamental = 0.3*np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)\n",
"        second_harm =
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"        wave = fundamental+second_harm\n",
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"        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)\n",
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```

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"    plt.ylabel(\"y\")\n",
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"We'll do a small param (like a Lissajous or a logistic map) just to show how you might map 2D data to pitch & timbre again. We'll keep it short."

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    "    The logistic map:  $x_{n+1} = r * x_n * (1 - x_n)$ ,  $0 < x < 1$ .\n",
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"    samplerate=44100\n",
"    x = x0\n",
"    out = []\n",
"    for i in range(steps):\n",
"        out.append(x)\n",
"        x = r*x*(1-x)\n",
"\n",
"    # Each value in [0..1], we can scale it up.\n",
"    for val in out:\n",
"        pitch_val = alpha*val # ~ 0..alpha\n",
"        semitones = snap_to_scale(pitch_val)\n",
"        freq = semitone_to_freq(base_freq, semitones)\n",
"\n",
"        # simple wave\n",
"        t = np.linspace(0, note_dur, int(samplerate*note_dur),
endpoint=False)\n",
"        wave = 0.3*np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*t)\n",
"        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)\n",
"        sd.wait()\n",
"\n",
"    print(\"Logistic map sonification done.\")\n",
"\n",
"    # quick plot\n",
"    plt.figure(figsize=(5,4))\n",
"    plt.plot(out, 'r.-')\n",
"    plt.title(f\"Logistic map, r={r}\")\n",
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"    plt.ylabel(\"x\")\n",
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    "    Pretend we have an ML model that clusters data into\n",
    "    groups.\n",
    "    For each cluster, we define a chord or scale.\n",
    "    We'll just do something silly: cluster=0 -> C major chord,\n",
    "    cluster=1-> F minor chord, etc.\n",
    "    Then we play short chord stabs in sequence.\n",
    "    \"\"\"\n",
    "    samplerate=44100\n",
    "    note_dur = 0.4\n",
    "\n",
    "    chord_map = {\n",
    "        0: [0,4,7], # C major triad (C-E-G in semitones from\n",
    "        root)\n",
    "        1: [0,3,7], # C minor triad\n",
    "        2: [0,5,9], # maybe a sus chord or something\n",
    "    }\n",
    "    base_freq = 220.0\n",
    "\n",
    "    # ensure cluster_labels match data_points in length.\n",
    "    for i, val in enumerate(data_points):\n",
    "        c = cluster_labels[i]\n",
    "        chord_intervals = chord_map.get(c, [0,4,7])\n",

```

```

        # let's pick a root offset from val in semitones\n",
        root_offset = int(val*5) # scale up data a bit\n",
        wavesum = 0\n",
        t = np.linspace(0, note_dur, int(samplerate*note_dur),
endpoint=False)\n",
        for interval in chord_intervals:\n",
            semitone = root_offset + interval\n",
            freq = base_freq*(2**(semitone/12))\n",
            wavesum += 0.2*np.sin(2*np.pi*freq*t)\n",
        sd.play(wavesum, samplerate=samplerate)\n",
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        "### Minimal Demo\n",

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        "We'll craft some random data points from 0..5, a random set of
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          " 0.93580328 1.3543541 2.36947326 4.83969175]\n",
          "Clusters: [1 1 1 0 2 0 0 0 1 0]\n"
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      "cluster_labels = np.random.randint(0,3,size=10)\n",
      "print(\"Data:\", data_points)\n",
      "print(\"Clusters:\", cluster_labels)\n",
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accordingly, or generate them with an AI composition model. The
final code would be far more sophisticated, but this snippet shows
how we can embed a *fake ML-driven mapping* into our sonification
pipeline.\n",
      "\n",
      "## Conclusion\n",
      "This Chapter 9 notebook underscores how *case studies*
(brachistochrone, logistic map) can reveal the power of Helical
Sonification or multi-axis mapping, and how *future expansions* (AI
chord decisions, VR) might further revolutionize how we experience
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chapter9-version2-notebook.ipynb

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%% md
# Chapter 9: Case Studies Notebook

This notebook demonstrates two short examples:
1. Cycloid (Brachistochrone) Example - parametric function mapping.
2. Stock/Financial Data - chunking and multi-voice approach.

We'll reuse the same basic pitch/timbre code from earlier chapters, with a few new twists to show practical usage.
%%
import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd
import ipywidgets as widgets
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

print("Chapter 9: Case Studies Notebook imports loaded.")
%% md
## Common Utility: Snap-to-Scale, chunk_data, etc.
%%
def snap_to_scale(val, scale=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], semitones=12):
    octave = int(val // semitones)
    remainder = val - octave*semitones
    best_note = None
    best_diff = 9999
    for s in scale:
        diff = abs(s - remainder)
        if diff < best_diff:
            best_diff = diff
            best_note = s
    return octave*semitones + best_note

def semitone_to_freq(base_freq, semitone_offset):
    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))

def chunk_data(data, chunk_size=10, method='mean'):
    out = []
    length = len(data)
    for i in range(0, length, chunk_size):
        block = data[i:i+chunk_size]
        if method=='mean':
            val = np.mean(block)
        elif method=='max':
            val = np.max(block)
        else:
            val = np.mean(block)
        out.append(val)
    return out

def play_sequence(data_array, alpha=4.0, base_freq=220.0, note_dur=0.3, scale=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11]):
    """Plays data array in a single voice, snapping each data value to pitch."""
    samplerate = 44100
    for val in data_array:
        raw_sem = alpha*val
        snapped = snap_to_scale(raw_sem, scale=scale)
        freq = semitone_to_freq(base_freq, snapped)
        wave = 0.3 *
np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*np.linspace(0,note_dur,int(samplerate*note_dur),endpoint=False))
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)
        sd.wait()
    print("Single-voice playback done.")

print("Utility functions ready.")
%% md
## 1) Cycloid (Brachistochrone) Example

We parametrize a cycloid, then map `(x(t), y(t))` to a short pitch sequence. We'll do something simplistic:
- Let `x(t)` increments define the time steps.
- Map `y(t)` to pitch.
- Possibly chunk so we don't do a million steps.

Cycloid param:
\begin{align}
x(t) = R(1 - \sin t), \quad y(t) = R(1 - \cos t), \quad t \in [0, 2\pi]
\end{align}
where `R` is some radius.
%%

```



```

def cycloid(num_points=40, R=1.0, tmax=2.0*np.pi):
    t_vals = np.linspace(0, tmax, num_points)
    x_vals = R*(t_vals - np.sin(t_vals))
    y_vals = R*(1.0 - np.cos(t_vals))
    return x_vals, y_vals

def play_cycloid(num_points=40, R=1.0, alpha=4.0, base_freq=220.0, note_dur=0.3):
    x, y = cycloid_data(num_points, R=R)
    # Just map y to pitch, ignoring x except as indexing.
    play_sequence(y, alpha=alpha, base_freq=base_freq, note_dur=note_dur)

print("Cycloid functions ready.")
#%% md
### Quick Demo
We'll do a 40-point cycloid, R=1.0, and map its y-values to pitch.
#%%
play_cycloid(num_points=40, R=1.0, alpha=5.0, base_freq=220.0, note_dur=0.25)
#%% md
## 2) Simple Stock/Financial Data Example
We'll randomly simulate some daily closing prices. Then chunk them into weekly means, and map them
to a pitch line.

*(In reality, you'd load real CSV data. But we'll do a quick random approach for demonstration.)*
#%%
def simulate_stock_prices(days=60, start_price=100.0):
    prices = [start_price]
    for i in range(days-1):
        change = np.random.normal(0, 2) # daily fluctuation
        prices.append(max(0.0, prices[-1] + change))
    return prices

def play_stock_sonification(days=60, chunk_size=5, alpha=4.0, base_freq=220.0, note_dur=0.3):
    data = simulate_stock_prices(days=days)
    chunked = chunk_data(data, chunk_size=chunk_size, method='mean')
    play_sequence(chunked, alpha=alpha, base_freq=base_freq, note_dur=note_dur)

print("Stock simulation & playback ready.")
#%% md
### Quick Demo
We'll do 60 days, chunk by 5 (representing weekly average), and sonify. Variation might produce
interesting pitch contours.
#%%
play_stock_sonification(days=60, chunk_size=5, alpha=5.0, base_freq=220.0, note_dur=0.2)
#%% md
## Interactive Version
We'll let you pick how many days, the chunk size, the pitch scaling, etc. Then re-sonify on each
slider change.
#%%
@widgets.interact(
    days=(30,120,10),
    chunk_size=(1,10,1),
    alpha=(1.0,8.0,1.0),
    note_dur=(0.1,1.0,0.1)
)
def stock_interactive(days=60, chunk_size=5, alpha=4.0, note_dur=0.3):
    data = simulate_stock_prices(days=days)
    chunked = chunk_data(data, chunk_size=chunk_size, method='mean')
    play_sequence(chunked, alpha=alpha, base_freq=220.0, note_dur=note_dur)

    plt.figure(figsize=(7,3))
    plt.plot(data, 'b.-', label='Daily Prices')
    plt.title(f"Simulated {days} days. chunk={chunk_size}, alpha={alpha}, dur={note_dur}")
    plt.xlabel("Day")
    plt.ylabel("Price")
    plt.legend()
    plt.show()

    print("Played interactive stock sonification.")
#%%

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        "2. Stock/Financial Data – chunking and multi-voice  
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        "\n",
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        "    octave = int(val // semitones)\n",
        "    remainder = val - octave*semitones\n",
        "    best_note = None\n",
        "    best_diff = 9999\n",
        "    for s in scale:\n",

```

```

"        diff = abs(s - remainder)\n",
"        if diff < best_diff:\n",
"            best_diff = diff\n",
"            best_note = s\n",
"    return octave*semitones + best_note\n",
"\n",
"def semitone_to_freq(base_freq, semitone_offset):\n",
"    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))\n",
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"def chunk_data(data, chunk_size=10, method='mean'):\n",
"    out = []\n",
"    length = len(data)\n",
"    for i in range(0, length, chunk_size):\n",
"        block = data[i:i+chunk_size]\n",
"        if method=='mean':\n",
"            val = np.mean(block)\n",
"        elif method=='max':\n",
"            val = np.max(block)\n",
"        else:\n",
"            val = np.mean(block)\n",
"        out.append(val)\n",
"    return out\n",
"\n",
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"    \"\"\"Plays data_array in a single voice, snapping each
data value to pitch.\"\"\"\n",
"    samplerate = 44100\n",
"    for val in data_array:\n",

```

```

        raw_sem = alpha*val\n",
        snapped = snap_to_scale(raw_sem, scale=scale)\n",
        freq = semitone_to_freq(base_freq, snapped)\n",
        wave = 0.3 *
np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*np.linspace(0,note_dur,int(samplerate*note_dur
),endpoint=False))\n",
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=samplerate)\n",
        sd.wait()\n",
        print("\nSingle-voice playback done.\n")\n",
        "\n",
        "print("\nUtility functions ready.\n")"
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        "## 1) Cycloid (Brachistochrone) Example\n",
        "\n",
        "We parametrize a cycloid, then map `(x(t), y(t))` to a short
pitch sequence. We'll do something simplistic:\n",
        "- Let `x(t)` increments define the time steps.\n",
        "- Map `y(t)` to pitch.\n",
        "- Possibly chunk so we don't do a million steps.\n",
        "\n",

```

```

"Cycloid param:\n",
"\\begin{align}\\n",
"x(t) = R\\,(t - \\sin t), \\quad y(t) = R\\,(1 - \\cos t),
\\quad t\\in [0,2\\pi]\\end{align}\\n",
"where `R` is some radius."
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"    t_vals = np.linspace(0, tmax, num_points)\n",
"    x_vals = R*(t_vals - np.sin(t_vals))\n",

```

```

        "    y_vals = R*(1.0 - np.cos(t_vals))\n",
        "    return x_vals, y_vals\n",
        "\n",
        "def play_cycloid(num_points=40, R=1.0, alpha=4.0,
base_freq=220.0, note_dur=0.3):\n",
        "    x, y = cycloid_data(num_points, R=R)\n",
        "    # Just map y to pitch, ignoring x except as indexing.\n",
        "    play_sequence(y, alpha=alpha, base_freq=base_freq,
note_dur=note_dur)\n",
        "    \n",
        "print(\"Cycloid functions ready.\")"
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```

    "## 2) Simple Stock/Financial Data Example\n",
    "We'll randomly simulate some daily closing prices. Then chunk
    them into weekly means, and map them to a pitch line.\n",
    "\n",
    "(In reality, you'd load real CSV data. But we'll do a quick
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        "def simulate_stock_prices(days=60, start_price=100.0):\n",
        "    prices = [start_price]\n",

```

```

        "    for i in range(days-1):\n",
        "        change = np.random.normal(0, 2) # daily
fluctuation\n",
        "        prices.append(max(0.0, prices[-1] + change))\n",
        "    return prices\n",
        "\n",
        "def play_stock_sonification(days=60, chunk_size=5, alpha=4.0,
base_freq=220.0, note_dur=0.3):\n",
        "    data = simulate_stock_prices(days=days)\n",
        "    chunked = chunk_data(data, chunk_size=chunk_size,
method='mean')\n",
        "    play_sequence(chunked, alpha=alpha, base_freq=base_freq,
note_dur=note_dur)\n",
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        "print(\"Stock simulation & playback ready.\")"
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sonify. Variation might produce interesting pitch contours."
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```

```
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```

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  "## Interactive Version\n",
  "We'll let you pick how many days, the chunk size, the pitch
scaling, etc. Then re-sonify on each slider change."
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```

```

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    "    alpha=(1.0,8.0,1.0),\n",
    "    note_dur=(0.1,1.0,0.1)\n",
    ")\n",
    "def stock_interactive(days=60, chunk_size=5, alpha=4.0,
note_dur=0.3):\n",
    "    data = simulate_stock_prices(days=days)\n",
    "    chunked = chunk_data(data, chunk_size=chunk_size,
method='mean')\n",
    "    play_sequence(chunked, alpha=alpha, base_freq=220.0,
note_dur=note_dur)\n",
    "\n",
    "    plt.figure(figsize=(7,3))\n",
    "    plt.plot(data, 'b.-', label='Daily Prices')\n",
    "    plt.title(f"Simulated {days} days. chunk={chunk_size},
alpha={alpha}, dur={note_dur}")\n",
    "    plt.xlabel("Day")\n",
    "    plt.ylabel("Price")\n",
    "    plt.legend()\n",
    "    plt.show()\n",
    "    \n",

```

```

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Chapter 10: Conclusion and Future Directions

Preliminary Concepts

February 10, 2025

10.1 Introduction

We have traversed a comprehensive path in developing a **Helical Sonification System (HSS)**—from basic pitch and timbre mappings to advanced emotional cues (Chapter 7) and multi-voice scaling (Chapters 8–9). Now, in Chapter 10, we:

- Summarize the core achievements of this book,
- Reflect on **limitations** (technical, psychoacoustic, or user-related),
- Sketch **future directions**, such as VR/AR implementations, AI-driven expansions, or clinical applications.

Overview of This Chapter

1. **Major Accomplishments:** Quick bullet review of the entire HSS approach.
2. **Limitations and Considerations:** Where sonification struggles, potential pitfalls, user training, cultural factors, etc.
3. **Future Directions:** Potential for microtonal expansions, AI-based adaptive sound, VR interactions, emotional therapy, and beyond.

We'll keep the next section (Expanded Discussion) more discursive, with references to real-world prototypes and "what's next."

Chapter 10: Conclusion and Future Directions

Expanded Discussion

February 10, 2025

10.1 Core Achievements of Our Helical Sonification System

10.1.1 Summary of Chapters 1–9

Chapter 1–2 (Foundations) We introduced the rationale for **sonification** and the mathematical/music theory underpinnings:

- Helical pitch axis to merge octave cyclicity with linear frequency ascent,
- Basic psychoacoustic properties (log-frequency, scale quantization).

Chapters 3–5 (Implementation: Pitch, Timbre, and Practical Functions) We constructed the code and methodology for:

- Mapping data to pitch and simple timbre (brightness),
- Handling typical mathematical functions (e.g. damped sine),
- Avoiding “vacuum cleaner” noise via chunking or scale snapping.

Chapters 6–7 (Rhythm, Polyrhythm, Emotional Shading) We expanded into:

- Polyrhythms (3:4, multiple streams) for extra dimensional mapping,
- Emotional shading, including fear/excitement triggers (roughness, rising pitch glides, tempo above heart rate).

Chapters 8–9 (Advanced Topics, Case Studies) Finally, we tackled:

- Multi-voice setups for large data sets, real-time or VR interactions,
- Real-world examples (stock data, fractals, brachistochrone curves, game-like horror cues).

10.2 Limitations and Considerations

10.2.1 Psychoacoustic/Perceptual Complexity

Sonification is powerful but can overwhelm listeners if too many *unfamiliar* axes or voices are introduced.

- **Learning Curve:** Users may need training to interpret pitch lines, polyrhythms, or timbre shifts as meaningful data cues.
- **Individual Differences:** Some individuals have better pitch or rhythmic acuity than others.

10.2.2 Cultural and Emotional Factors

As discussed in Chapter 7, emotional connotations (major/minor, dissonance) can vary across cultures, and not everyone experiences “fear” from dissonant intervals. Additionally, too much emotional intensity might distract from the data rather than clarify it.

10.2.3 Technical Constraints

- **Real-Time Latency:** If implementing VR or direct sensor mappings, ensuring low-latency audio can be challenging.
- **Data Preprocessing:** Large or messy data demands chunking, smoothing, or dimensionality reduction to remain musically coherent.

10.3 Future Directions

10.3.1 Microtonal and Beyond-12TET Systems

We restricted ourselves mostly to 12-tone equal temperament for convenience, but microtonal expansions (19TET, 24TET, etc.) might reveal subtle data variations. Or just intonation for more “pure” intervals.

- Could be especially interesting in scientific or global contexts where standard 12TET is no longer the best representation.

10.3.2 AI and Adaptive Sonification

Machine learning models could dynamically pick the “best” scale or timbre for highlighting patterns, or adapt emotional shading based on user feedback.

- **User-Focused Approach:** If the user fails to notice a data anomaly, the system might intensify dissonance or raise pitch volume.
- **Reinforcement Learning:** The sonification engine could test different mappings and see which yields the best user comprehension.

10.3.3 VR/AR Immersive Soundscapes

Merging **3D spatial audio** with the Helical approach might let you physically “walk around” the spiral of pitches in a VR environment.

- **Gesture Controls:** wave your hand upward for higher pitch, turn your head to shift timbre axes, etc.
- **Polyrhythm in 3D Space:** place different rhythmic streams in different spatial locations, so the user can “walk” from one stream to another for more focus.

10.3.4 Clinical and Educational Uses

Biofeedback or therapy sessions might incorporate *fear triggers* or *calming cues* based on real-time physiological signals. Meanwhile, in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) education, a dynamic sonification lab could help visually impaired students or anyone seeking a more intuitive, multi-sensory approach to mathematics and data.

10.4 Final Thoughts

The Helical Sonification System is not just about turning data into “beeps” or “sweeps.” It aims to produce *music-like* structures that harness the full potential of pitch, timbre, rhythm, polyrhythm, and emotional cues. By bridging psychoacoustics, music theory, data science, and creativity, we open the door to:

- Deeper intuition for complex patterns (like fractals, high-dimensional stats, real-time sensor streams),
- Engaging, immersive experiences that might surpass purely visual graphs in certain contexts,
- A new synergy between art and science, where data *is* the music, and the listener can both enjoy it aesthetically and interpret it cognitively.

We hope this book has shown the vast possibilities and the path forward—there is still much to explore and perfect. ****Sonification**** remains a growing field, and with the rising power of real-time audio engines, VR/AR interfaces, and AI-based adaptations, the horizon for advanced, emotionally rich, and scientifically enlightening *musical data experiences* is brighter than ever.

chapter10_final_synergy.ipynb

```

%% md
# Chapter 10: Final Synergy Demo

In this notebook, we combine:
- **Two voices** (Voice A, Voice B)
- An optional polyrhythm approach (3-subdivision vs. 4-subdivision triggers)
- **Emotional shading**: user picks either a major or minor scale (or toggles a 'fear factor')
- Some chunking of random data for brevity.

The idea: Show how all these elements can come together in an "everything but the kitchen sink"
demonstration. Enjoy!
%%
import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd
import ipywidgets as widgets
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
print("Chapter 10 final synergy notebook loaded.")
%% md
## Utility Functions
We'll define a polyrhythm-based "two-voice" playback that also respects a chosen scale set for each
voice (major or minor).
%%
def snap_to_scale(val, scale=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], semitones_per_octave=12):
    octave = int(val // semitones_per_octave)
    remainder = val - octave*semitones_per_octave
    best_note = scale[0]
    best_diff = 9999
    for s in scale:
        diff = abs(s - remainder)
        if diff < best_diff:
            best_diff = diff
            best_note = s
    return octave*semitones_per_octave + best_note

def semitone_to_freq(base_freq, semitone_offset):
    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))

def chunk_data(data, chunk_size=10, method='mean'):
    out = []
    for i in range(0, len(data), chunk_size):
        block = data[i:i+chunk_size]
        if method=='mean':
            val = np.mean(block)
        elif method=='max':
            val = np.max(block)
        else:
            val = np.mean(block)
        out.append(val)
    return out

def play_two_voice_polyrhythm(
    dataA, dataB,
    alphaA=4.0, alphaB=4.0,
    baseA=220.0, baseB=330.0,
    scaleA=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], scaleB=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11],
    measure_duration=2.0,
    subdivA=3,
    subdivB=4,
    note_dur=0.2
):
    """
    We'll do a single measure of length measure_duration.
    Voice A triggers subdivA times, Voice B triggers subdivB times.
    Each trigger, we pick the next data point in dataA or dataB, snap pitch, and produce a short
    beep.
    """
    # chunk the data if needed
    # but for now, assume dataA has subdivA length, dataB has subdivB length.
    dataA = dataA[:subdivA]
    dataB = dataB[:subdivB]

    # times
    a_times = np.linspace(0, measure_duration*(subdivA-1)/subdivA, subdivA)
    b_times = np.linspace(0, measure_duration*(subdivB-1)/subdivB, subdivB)

    events = []

```

```

# build events for A
for i, tA in enumerate(a_times):
    raw_semA = alphaA*dataA[i]
    snappedA = snap_to_scale(raw_semA, scale=scaleA)
    freqA = semitone_to_freq(baseA, snappedA)
    events.append((tA, 'A', freqA))
# build events for B
for j, tB in enumerate(b_times):
    raw_semB = alphaB*dataB[j]
    snappedB = snap_to_scale(raw_semB, scale=scaleB)
    freqB = semitone_to_freq(baseB, snappedB)
    events.append((tB, 'B', freqB))

events.sort(key=lambda e: e[0])
beep_sr = 44100
last_t = 0

for (tevent, who, freq) in events:
    wait_time = tevent - last_t
    if wait_time>0:
        sd.sleep(int(wait_time*1000))
    last_t = tevent
    wave = 0.3*np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*np.linspace(0, note_dur,
int(beep_sr*note_dur),endpoint=False))
    sd.play(wave, samplerate=beep_sr)
    sd.wait()

leftover = measure_duration - last_t
if leftover>0:
    sd.sleep(int(leftover*1000))
print("Multi-voice polyrhythm measure done.")
#%% md
## Final Synergy Interactive Cell
We'll do the following:
- Generate random dataA, dataB (length ~8 each).
- Let user choose major or minor for each voice (valence?), or a 'fear factor' that picks a minor
scale with dissonant intervals.
- Let them set polyrhythm subdivisions (3 & 4 by default, or 4 & 5?), measure duration, note
duration, etc.

We'll do a single measure each time they change a slider.
#%%
@widgets.interact(
    scaleA=widgets.Dropdown(options={'Major':[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], 'Minor':[0,2,3,5,7,8,10], 'Fear':
[0,1,3,6,7,10,11]}, value=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], description='Scale A'),
    scaleB=widgets.Dropdown(options={'Major':[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], 'Minor':[0,2,3,5,7,8,10], 'Fear':
[0,1,3,6,7,10,11]}, value=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], description='Scale B'),
    alphaA=(1.0,8.0,1.0),
    alphaB=(1.0,8.0,1.0),
    subdivA=(2,6,1),
    subdivB=(2,6,1),
    measure_duration=(1.0,5.0,0.5),
    note_dur=(0.1,0.6,0.1)
)
def synergy_demo(scaleA, scaleB, alphaA=4.0, alphaB=4.0,
    subdivA=3, subdivB=4,
    measure_duration=2.0,
    note_dur=0.2):
    # generate small random data for each voice
    dataA = np.random.uniform(0,5,subdivA)
    dataB = np.random.uniform(0,5,subdivB)

    print("(scaleA=", scaleA, ", scaleB=", scaleB,
        ", alphaA=", alphaA, ", alphaB=", alphaB,
        ", subdivA=", subdivA, ", subdivB=", subdivB,
        ", measure=", measure_duration, ", note_dur=", note_dur,
        ")")

    play_two_voice_polyrhythm(
        dataA, dataB,
        alphaA=alphaA, alphaB=alphaB,
        baseA=220.0, baseB=330.0,
        scaleA=scaleA, scaleB=scaleB,
        measure_duration=measure_duration,
        subdivA=subdivA,
        subdivB=subdivB,
        note_dur=note_dur
    )
    print("Synergy measure done.")
#%%

```



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        "- **Two voices** (Voice A, Voice B)\n",
        "- An optional polyrhythm approach (3-subdivision vs. 4-subdivision triggers)\n",
        "- **Emotional shading**: user picks either a major or minor scale (or toggles a 'fear factor')\n",
        "- Some chunking of random data for brevity.\n",
        "\n",
        "The idea: Show how all these elements can come together in an\n\"everything but the kitchen sink\" demonstration. Enjoy!"
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    "import sounddevice as sd\n",
    "import ipywidgets as widgets\n",
    "import matplotlib.pyplot as plt\n",
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```

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semitones_per_octave=12):\n",
        "    octave = int(val // semitones_per_octave)\n",
        "    remainder = val - octave*semitones_per_octave\n",
        "    best_note = scale[0]\n",
        "    best_diff = 9999\n",
        "    for s in scale:\n",
        "        diff = abs(s - remainder)\n",
        "        if diff < best_diff:\n",
        "            best_diff = diff\n",
        "            best_note = s\n",
        "    return octave*semitones_per_octave + best_note\n",

```

```

"\n",
"def semitone_to_freq(base_freq, semitone_offset):\n",
"    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))\n",
"\n",
"def chunk_data(data, chunk_size=10, method='mean'):\n",
"    out = []\n",
"    for i in range(0, len(data), chunk_size):\n",
"        block = data[i:i+chunk_size]\n",
"        if method=='mean':\n",
"            val = np.mean(block)\n",
"        elif method=='max':\n",
"            val = np.max(block)\n",
"        else:\n",
"            val = np.mean(block)\n",
"        out.append(val)\n",
"    return out\n",
"\n",
"def play_two_voice_polyrhythm(\n",
"    dataA, dataB,\n",
"    alphaA=4.0, alphaB=4.0,\n",
"    baseA=220.0, baseB=330.0,\n",
"    scaleA=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], scaleB=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11],\n",
"    measure_duration=2.0,\n",
"    subdivA=3,\n",
"    subdivB=4,\n",
"    note_dur=0.2\n",
"):
    \"\"\"\n",
    We'll do a single measure of length measure_duration.

```

```

"    Voice A triggers subdivA times, Voice B triggers subdivB
times.\n",

"    Each trigger, we pick the next data point in dataA or
dataB, snap pitch, and produce a short beep.\n",

"    \"\"\"\n",

"    # chunk the data if needed\n",

"    # but for now, assume dataA has subdivA length, dataB has
subdivB length.\n",

"    dataA = dataA[:subdivA]\n",

"    dataB = dataB[:subdivB]\n",

"\n",

"    # times\n",

"    a_times = np.linspace(0, measure_duration*(subdivA-
1)/subdivA, subdivA)\n",

"    b_times = np.linspace(0, measure_duration*(subdivB-
1)/subdivB, subdivB)\n",

"\n",

"    events = []\n",

"    # build events for A\n",

"    for i, tA in enumerate(a_times):\n",

"        raw_semA = alphaA*dataA[i]\n",

"        snappedA = snap_to_scale(raw_semA, scale=scaleA)\n",

"        freqA = semitone_to_freq(baseA, snappedA)\n",

"        events.append((tA, 'A', freqA))\n",

"    # build events for B\n",

"    for j, tB in enumerate(b_times):\n",

"        raw_semB = alphaB*dataB[j]\n",

"        snappedB = snap_to_scale(raw_semB, scale=scaleB)\n",

"        freqB = semitone_to_freq(baseB, snappedB)\n",

"        events.append((tB, 'B', freqB))\n",

```

```

"\n",
    events.sort(key=lambda e: e[0])\n",
    beep_sr = 44100\n",
    last_t = 0\n",
"\n",
    for (tevent, who, freq) in events:\n",
        wait_time = tevent - last_t\n",
        if wait_time>0:\n",
            sd.sleep(int(wait_time*1000))\n",
            last_t = tevent\n",
        wave = 0.3*np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*np.linspace(0,
note_dur, int(beep_sr*note_dur),endpoint=False))\n",
        sd.play(wave, samplerate=beep_sr)\n",
        sd.wait()\n",
"\n",
    leftover = measure_duration - last_t\n",
    if leftover>0:\n",
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  "- Let user choose major or minor for each voice (valence?), or
a 'fear factor' that picks a minor scale with dissonant
intervals.\n",
  "- Let them set polyrhythm subdivisions (3 & 4 by default, or 4
& 5?), measure duration, note duration, etc.\n",
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  "We'll do a single measure each time they change a slider."
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    "    note_dur=(0.1,0.6,0.1)\n",
    ")\n",
    "def synergy_demo(scaleA, scaleB, alphaA=4.0, alphaB=4.0,\n",
    "    subdivA=3, subdivB=4,\n",
    "    measure_duration=2.0,\n",
    "    note_dur=0.2):\n",
    "    # generate small random data for each voice\n",
    "    dataA = np.random.uniform(0,5,subdivA)\n",

```

```

"    dataB = np.random.uniform(0,5,subdivB)\n",
"    \n",
"    print(\"(scaleA=\", scaleA, \", scaleB=\", scaleB,\n",
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"        \", subdivA=\", subdivA, \", subdivB=\", subdivB,\n",
"        \", measure=\", measure_duration, \", note_dur=\",
note_dur,\n",
"        \")\")\n",
"    \n",
"    play_two_voice_polyrhythm(\n",
"        dataA, dataB,\n",
"        alphaA=alphaA, alphaB=alphaB,\n",
"        baseA=220.0, baseB=330.0,\n",
"        scaleA=scaleA, scaleB=scaleB,\n",
"        measure_duration=measure_duration,\n",
"        subdivA=subdivA,\n",
"        subdivB=subdivB,\n",
"        note_dur=note_dur\n",
"    )\n",
"    print(\"Synergy measure done.\")"
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Chapter10_Final_Synergy_Debug.ipynb

```

%% md
# Chapter 10: Final Synergy (Debug Version)

This notebook:
1. Tests audio with a simple beep (Cell 2).
2. Defines our polyrhythm synergy code with debug prints and longer note durations.
3. Provides an interactive set of sliders to control scale, pitch scale, measure duration, etc.

Copy exactly from the first `` to the last `` into a file named
`Chapter10_Final_Synergy_Debug.ipynb`. Then open in Jupyter. No extra backticks or lines.
If you see frequency values printed but still hear silence, check volume settings or `sounddevice`
environment.

%%
# Cell 2: Simple beep test
import numpy as np
import sounddevice as sd

def test_beep(duration=1.0, freq=440.0):
    sr = 44100
    t = np.linspace(0, duration, int(sr*duration), endpoint=False)
    wave = 0.3 * np.sin(2*np.pi*freq * t)
    sd.play(wave, samplerate=sr)
    sd.wait()
    print(f"Test beep at {freq} Hz for {duration} s done.")

# Let's do a 1-second beep at 440 Hz.
test_beep()
%% md
## Cell 3: Synergy polyrhythm code
We'll define a polyrhythm function that triggers two voices (A and B) in one measure, subdividing
time.
We also add debug prints of frequency.

%%
import ipywidgets as widgets
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

def snap_to_scale(val, scale=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], semitones_per_octave=12):
    octave = int(val // semitones_per_octave)
    remainder = val - octave*semitones_per_octave
    best_note = scale[0]
    best_diff = 9999
    for s in scale:
        diff = abs(s - remainder)
        if diff < best_diff:
            best_diff = diff
            best_note = s
    return octave*semitones_per_octave + best_note

def semitone_to_freq(base_freq, semitone_offset):
    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))

def play_polyrhythm_synergy(
    dataA, dataB,
    alphaA=4.0, alphaB=4.0,
    baseA=220.0, baseB=330.0,
    scaleA=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], scaleB=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11],
    measure_duration=2.0,
    subdivA=3,
    subdivB=4,
    note_dur=0.5
):
    """
    We'll do a single measure of length measure_duration.
    Voice A triggers subdivA times, voice B triggers subdivB times.
    Each event is a short beep of length note_dur.
    dataA and dataB must have at least subdivA/subdivB length.
    Debug prints show time/freq.
    """
    dataA = dataA[:subdivA]
    dataB = dataB[:subdivB]

    a_times = np.linspace(0, measure_duration*(subdivA-1)/subdivA, subdivA)
    b_times = np.linspace(0, measure_duration*(subdivB-1)/subdivB, subdivB)

    events = []

```

```

# build A events
for i, tA in enumerate(a times):
    raw_semA = alphaA*dataA[i]
    snappedA = snap_to_scale(raw_semA, scale=scaleA)
    freqA = semitone_to_freq(baseA, snappedA)
    events.append((tA, 'A', freqA))
# build B events
for j, tB in enumerate(b times):
    raw_semB = alphaB*dataB[j]
    snappedB = snap_to_scale(raw_semB, scale=scaleB)
    freqB = semitone_to_freq(baseB, snappedB)
    events.append((tB, 'B', freqB))

events.sort(key=lambda e: e[0])
beep_sr = 44100
last_t = 0

for (tevent, who, freq) in events:
    wait_time = tevent - last_t
    if wait_time>0:
        sd.sleep(int(wait_time*1000))
    last_t = tevent
    print(f"Time={tevent:.2f}, Voice={who}, Freq={freq:.2f} Hz")
    wave = 0.3*np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*np.linspace(0, note_dur,
int(beep_sr*note_dur),endpoint=False))
    sd.play(wave, samplerate=beep_sr)
    sd.wait()

leftover = measure_duration - last_t
if leftover>0:
    sd.sleep(int(leftover*1000))
print("Polyrhythm synergy measure done.")

print("Polyrhythm synergy function defined.")
#%% md
## Cell 4: Interactive Sliders
We generate random data arrays `dataA` and `dataB` each time you adjust a slider. Then we do a
single measure of polyrhythm synergy, with half-second notes. Should be very noticeable.

#%%
@widgets.interact(
    scaleA=widgets.Dropdown(options={'Major':[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], 'Minor':[0,2,3,5,7,8,10], 'Fear':
[0,1,3,6,7,10,11]}, value=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], description='Scale A'),
    scaleB=widgets.Dropdown(options={'Major':[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], 'Minor':[0,2,3,5,7,8,10], 'Fear':
[0,1,3,6,7,10,11]}, value=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], description='Scale B'),
    alphaA=(1.0,8.0,1.0),
    alphaB=(1.0,8.0,1.0),
    subdivA=(2,6,1),
    subdivB=(2,6,1),
    measure_duration=(1.0,5.0,0.5),
    note_dur=(0.2,1.0,0.1)
)
def synergy_interactive(
    scaleA, scaleB,
    alphaA=6.0, alphaB=6.0,
    subdivA=3, subdivB=4,
    measure_duration=2.0,
    note_dur=0.5
):
    # generate random data each time, length >= subdivA, subdivB
    dataA = np.random.uniform(0,5,subdivA)
    dataB = np.random.uniform(0,5,subdivB)

    print(f"Chosen scales, alphaA={alphaA}, alphaB={alphaB}, subdivA={subdivA}, subdivB={subdivB},
measure={measure_duration}, note_dur={note_dur}")
    print("Data A:", dataA)
    print("Data B:", dataB)

    play_polyrhythm_synergy(
        dataA, dataB,
        alphaA=alphaA, alphaB=alphaB,
        baseA=220.0, baseB=330.0,
        scaleA=scaleA, scaleB=scaleB,
        measure_duration=measure_duration,
        subdivA=subdivA,
        subdivB=subdivB,
        note_dur=note_dur
    )
    print("Done synergy interactive call.")

#%%

```



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        "1. Tests audio with a simple beep (Cell 2).\n",
        "2. Defines our polyrhythm synergy code with debug  

prints and longer note durations.\n",
        "3. Provides an interactive set of sliders to control scale,  

pitch scale, measure duration, etc.\n",
        "\n",
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named `Chapter10_Final_Synergy_Debug.ipynb`. Then open in Jupyter.  

No extra backticks or lines.\n",
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check volume settings or `sounddevice` environment.\n"
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  "import numpy as np\n",
  "import sounddevice as sd\n",
  "\n",
  "def test_beep(duration=1.0, freq=440.0):\n",
  "    sr = 44100\n",
  "    t = np.linspace(0, duration, int(sr*duration),\nendpoint=False)\n",
  "    wave = 0.3 * np.sin(2*np.pi*freq * t)\n",
  "    sd.play(wave, samplerate=sr)\n",
  "    sd.wait()\n",
  "    print(f\"Test beep at {freq} Hz for {duration} s\n\n",
done.\")\n",

```

```

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semitones_per_octave=12):\n",
  "    octave = int(val // semitones_per_octave)\n",
  "    remainder = val - octave*semitones_per_octave\n",
  "    best_note = scale[0]\n",
  "    best_diff = 9999\n",
  "    for s in scale:\n",
  "        diff = abs(s - remainder)\n",
  "        if diff < best_diff:\n",
  "            best_diff = diff\n",
  "            best_note = s\n",
  "    return octave*semitones_per_octave + best_note\n",
  "\n",
  "def semitone_to_freq(base_freq, semitone_offset):\n",
  "    return base_freq * (2.0 ** (semitone_offset / 12.0))\n",
  "\n",

```



```

def play_polyrhythm_synergy(\n",
    dataA, dataB,\n",
    alphaA=4.0, alphaB=4.0,\n",
    baseA=220.0, baseB=330.0,\n",
    scaleA=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], scaleB=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11],\n",
    measure_duration=2.0,\n",
    subdivA=3,\n",
    subdivB=4,\n",
    note_dur=0.5\n",
): \n",
    \"\"\"\n",
    We'll do a single measure of length measure_duration.\n",
    Voice A triggers subdivA times, voice B triggers subdivB
times.\n",
    Each event is a short beep of length note_dur.\n",
    dataA and dataB must have at least subdivA/subdivB
length.\n",
    Debug prints show time/freq.\n",
    \"\"\"\n",
    dataA = dataA[:subdivA]\n",
    dataB = dataB[:subdivB]\n",
    \n",
    a_times = np.linspace(0, measure_duration*(subdivA-
1)/subdivA, subdivA)\n",
    b_times = np.linspace(0, measure_duration*(subdivB-
1)/subdivB, subdivB)\n",
    \n",
    events = []\n",
    # build A events\n",
    for i, tA in enumerate(a_times):\n",

```

```

"        raw_semA = alphaA*dataA[i]\n",
"        snappedA = snap_to_scale(raw_semA, scale=scaleA)\n",
"        freqA = semitone_to_freq(baseA, snappedA)\n",
"        events.append((tA, 'A', freqA))\n",
"    # build B events\n",
"    for j, tB in enumerate(b_times):\n",
"        raw_semB = alphaB*dataB[j]\n",
"        snappedB = snap_to_scale(raw_semB, scale=scaleB)\n",
"        freqB = semitone_to_freq(baseB, snappedB)\n",
"        events.append((tB, 'B', freqB))\n",
"\n",
"    events.sort(key=lambda e: e[0])\n",
"    beep_sr = 44100\n",
"    last_t = 0\n",
"\n",
"    for (tevent, who, freq) in events:\n",
"        wait_time = tevent - last_t\n",
"        if wait_time>0:\n",
"            sd.sleep(int(wait_time*1000))\n",
"            last_t = tevent\n",
"            print(f"Time={tevent:.2f}, Voice={who},\n",
Freq={freq:.2f} Hz")\n",
"            wave = 0.3*np.sin(2.0*np.pi*freq*np.linspace(0,\n",
note_dur, int(beep_sr*note_dur),endpoint=False))\n",
"            sd.play(wave, samplerate=beep_sr)\n",
"            sd.wait()\n",
"\n",
"    leftover = measure_duration - last_t\n",
"    if leftover>0:\n",

```

```

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        print("\nPolyrhythm synergy measure done.\n"),
        "\n",
        print("\nPolyrhythm synergy function defined.\n")
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value=[0,2,4,5,7,9,11], description='Scale B'),\n",
  "    alphaA=(1.0,8.0,1.0),\n",
  "    alphaB=(1.0,8.0,1.0),\n",
  "    subdivA=(2,6,1),\n",
  "    subdivB=(2,6,1),\n",

```

```

"    measure_duration=(1.0,5.0,0.5),\n",
"    note_dur=(0.2,1.0,0.1)\n",
")\n",
"def synergy_interactive(\n",
"    scaleA, scaleB,\n",
"    alphaA=6.0, alphaB=6.0,\n",
"    subdivA=3, subdivB=4,\n",
"    measure_duration=2.0,\n",
"    note_dur=0.5\n",
"): \n",
"    # generate random data each time, length >= subdivA,
subdivB\n",
"    dataA = np.random.uniform(0,5,subdivA)\n",
"    dataB = np.random.uniform(0,5,subdivB)\n",
"\n",
"    print(f"Chosen scales, alphaA={alphaA}, alphaB={alphaB},
subdivA={subdivA}, subdivB={subdivB}, measure={measure_duration},
note_dur={note_dur}")\n",
"    print("Data A:", dataA)\n",
"    print("Data B:", dataB)\n",
"\n",
"    play_polyrhythm_synergy(\n",
"        dataA, dataB,\n",
"        alphaA=alphaA, alphaB=alphaB,\n",
"        baseA=220.0, baseB=330.0,\n",
"        scaleA=scaleA, scaleB=scaleB,\n",
"        measure_duration=measure_duration,\n",
"        subdivA=subdivA,\n",
"        subdivB=subdivB,\n",
"        note_dur=note_dur\n",

```

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}
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Epilogue

And so we come full circle. We began with the notion that Cartesian coordinates revolutionized our visual grasp of equations, forging new frontiers in calculus and modern science. We end with a realization that **sonic coordinates** might open an equally transformative path. Over these chapters, we've constructed a Helical Sonification System, weaving together pitch arcs, timbral shifts, rhythmic structures, polyrhythms, and even emotional cues like fear or tension. We explored how these elements, grounded in both psychoacoustics and music theory, can enliven raw data and turn it into a **living, breathing**, or perhaps "singing," entity.

Yet what we've shared is only the beginning. Much as Descartes' geometry needed Leibniz' and Newton's calculus to reveal its full potential, our helical system could benefit from future leaps: advanced VR interfaces, AI-driven emotional shading, or real-time adaptive systems that respond to user feedback. Perhaps a day will come when scientists routinely "jam" with their data, hearing gravitational waves or stock market fluctuations as spontaneously as we now click on a spreadsheet. Perhaps educators will use multi-voice sonification in a VR lab to let students **feel** fractal recursions or **hear** chaotic signals—like turning mathematics class into an immersive concert.

We also find ourselves at a threshold where the lines between "art" and "science" blur. Throughout history, the best mathematicians often likened their discipline to music, while many composers used mathematical structures for inspiration. Our approach simply intensifies that synergy, bridging data analysis and creative expression. The same polyrhythms that highlight correlations in a climate dataset might serve as the rhythmic drive in a new avant-garde composition. The same "fear triggers" that help a medical researcher detect anomalies in EEG signals might also be the backbone of a horror game's dynamic soundtrack. We stand at the dawn of a new **synthetic** world—where numbers sing, music calculates, and the boundary between them dissolves in a swirl of pitch arcs and timbral illusions.

If there's one final message to take away from this book, it's a sense of curiosity. Don't be afraid to experiment with "weird" sonic mappings, or to let data sculpt your composition, or to let your VR gestures modulate a multi-voice sonification. In stepping beyond the purely visual or textual analysis that's dominated so much of mathematics and data science, we give ourselves permission to stumble on unexpected insights. And

in bridging emotion—fear, excitement, awe—we remind ourselves that data is more than just knowledge; it can **feel** profoundly human when presented through the universal language of sound.

We hope you'll continue this sonic journey, forging new software, new art, new research, and new experiences. As you close these pages, may you do so with your ears wide open, eager to hear the hidden patterns of the universe. May you remember that once, a brilliant insight let us visualize equations—and now, we stand on the cusp of letting equations and data **sing**. The stage is set. The next verse is yours to write.